2

OSHI NO KO
the second
volume.

【推しの子】

赤坂アカ×
横槍メンゴ

YOUNG JUMP COMICS

【推しの子】
OSHI NO KO
(2)
赤坂アカ × 横槍メンゴ

OSHI NO KO ❷ CONTENTS

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★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

Ripped & Compiled by Oak

CHARACTER

プロローグ 幼年期 人物紹介

【星野アイ】
HOSHINO AI
アイドルグループ"B小町"の絶対的センターとして活躍。

【斉藤壱護】
SAITO ICHIGO
アイの所属する芸能事務所・苺プロダクションの社長。

夫婦

所属事務所

【斉藤ミヤコ】
SAITO MIYAKO

【五反田泰志】
GOTANDA TAISHI
アイとアクアが出演した映画の監督。

【有馬かな】
ARIMA KANA
同映画の撮影現場で出会った10秒で泣ける天才子役。

双子

【星野愛久愛海】
HOSHINO AQUAMARINE
通称・アクア。

【星野瑠美衣】
HOSHINO RUBY
通称・ルビー。

転生

転生

ゴロー
GORO
地方都市で産婦人科医として勤務。元々のアイ推しだが、妊娠中の彼女をストーカーから守る犠牲となり死亡。

さりな
SARINA
ゴローが勤務していた病院の入院患者。難病により12歳で他界。双子は互いに正体に気付いていない。

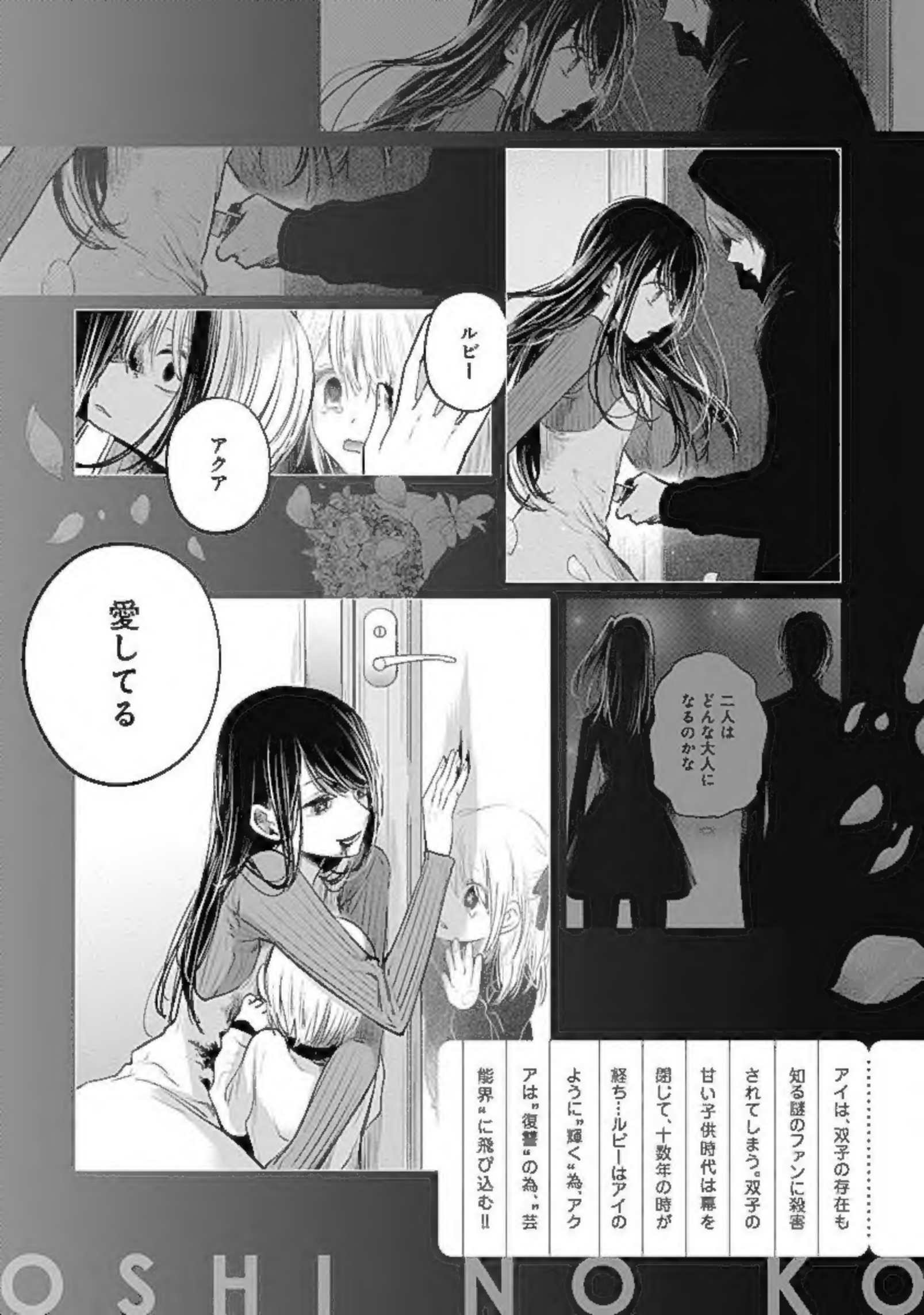
患者

あらすじ

推しのアイドル・星野アイの"子"に転生し、前世の記憶を持ったまま"赤ちゃんライフ"を満喫する双子のアクアとルビー。アイは、妊娠・出産を隠して嘘を貫いたまま、アイドル活動を継続し、ドラマや映画にも出演。双子にも見守られ、順調に芸能界を駆け上がっていた。そして、20歳の誕生日には念願のドーム公演を控えていた。

しかし、その当日……。

OSHI NO KO



……アイは、双子の存在も知る謎のファンに殺害されてしまう。双子の甘い子供時代は幕を閉じて、十数年の時が経ち…ルビーはアイのように〝輝く〟為、アクアは〝復讐〟の為、〝芸能界〟に飛び込む!!

CHAPTER 11
AUDITION

【推しの子】
AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI

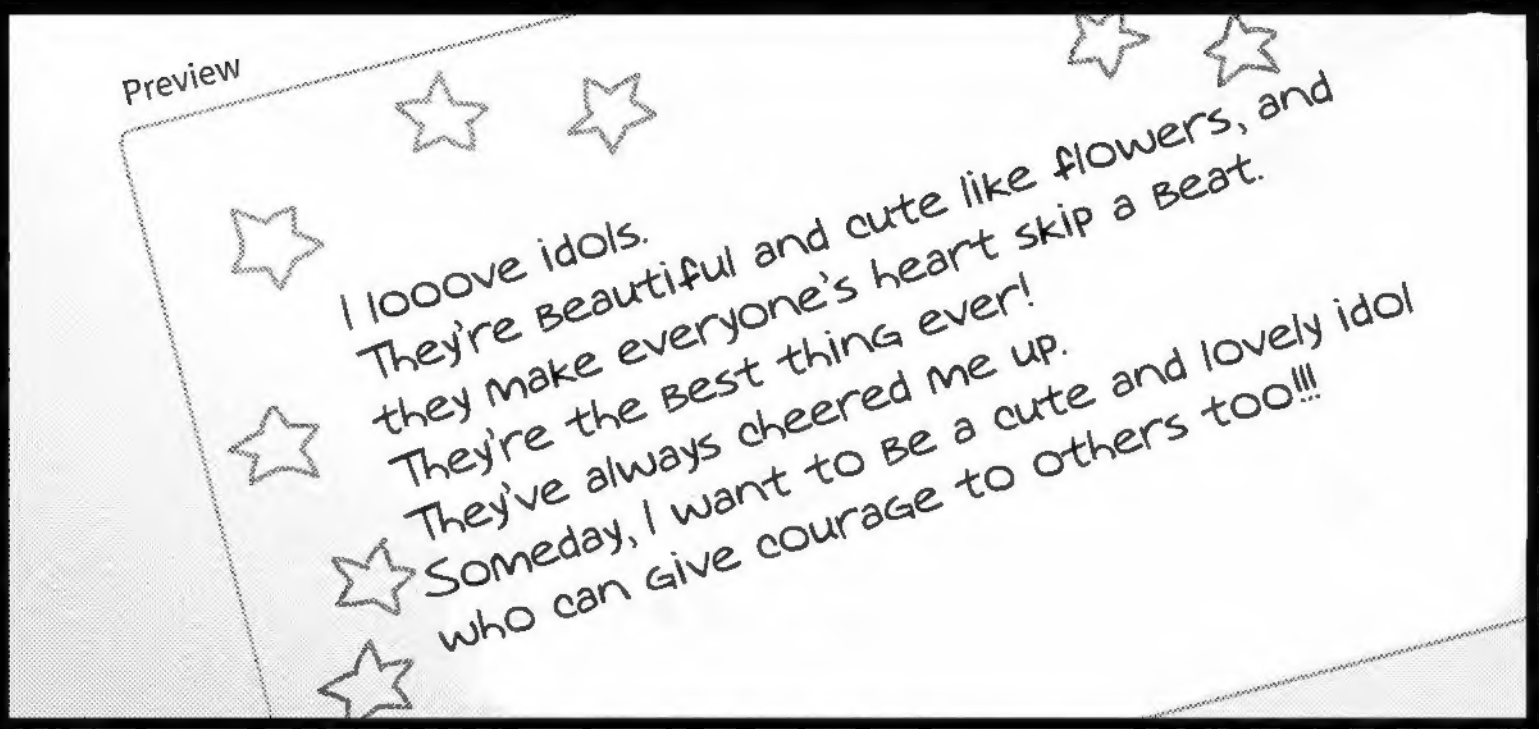
Audition for additional members of a certain large-scale idol group

Number of applicants: 136,114 people

Requirements:
Girls between 14-20 years of age

Translated by Felicia Sumali
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

First examination, paper screening


Preview
I looove idols.
They're beautiful and cute like flowers, and
they make everyone's heart skip a beat.
They're the best thing ever!
They've always cheered me up.
Someday, I want to be a cute and lovely idol
who can give courage to others too!!!

Passing
(Number of successful applicants: 1288 people, acceptance ratio: 1 in 105.7)

Second examination, interview (conducted in eight locations nationwide)

Waiting for results
(The previous applicant-to-acceptance ratio is 1 in 12.7)

HONESTLY, I'M CONFI-DENT THAT I'LL GET IT!

中学校

Sign: Middle School

I COULDN'T APPLY FOR THE PREVIOUS AUDITION BECAUSE I WAS TOO YOUNG.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR TWO YEARS!!

YEAH, YEAH!

I'M SURE YOU'LL PASS, RUBY!

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE CUTE...

...AND GOOD AT DANCING!

BUT YOUR SINGING IS KINDA...!

KINDA...?

DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR THAT FLAW, RUBY!

FLAW?

THEN...

...I'LL BE AN IDOL LIKE MOM.

ANY-WAY...

THIS AUDITION WILL DEFI-NITELY BE MINE!

MY NAME IS RUBY HOSHINO.

I HAVE TWO SECRETS THAT I CAN'T EVEN TELL MY FRIENDS.

I HAVE MEMORIES OF MY PREVIOUS LIFE.

SECOND,

...WHO GOT KILLED BY A FANATIC STALKER.

FIRST, MY MOM WAS THE LEGENDARY IDOL, "AI"...

idol stalker

The culprit committed suicide

Stabbed to death

Ai

...SO I SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE IN THE HOSPITAL.

MY BODY HAS BEEN WEAK SINCE I WAS BORN...

EVEN WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO DIE,

MY HEAD WAS FILLED WITH AI'S SINGING VOICE.

ESPECIALLY AI.

THE ONLY FUN THING I HAD WAS MY OBSESSION WITH IDOLS.

I HAD BEEN REBORN AS AI'S DAUGHTER.

HOWEVER, THE NEXT TIME I OPENED MY EYES,

...I SPENT WITH AI—MAMA BEFORE SHE DIED...

...WERE A TREASURE TO ME.

THE FEW YEARS...

TALKING ABOUT DREAMS IS FINE AND ALL,

BUT THE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE COMING UP.

SMACK

I'LL BE AN IDOL LIKE MAMA!

I'M GOING TO BE AN IDOL.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ONII-CHAN.

HIGH SCHOOLS WITH PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENTS ARE FOCUSING ON THE INTERVIEWS!

KNOWLEDGE IS JUST FOR REFERENCE!

IF I BECOME AN IDOL, I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO STUDY FOR EXAMS. IT'S LIKE KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

DON'T GAMBLE YOUR LIFE ON THAT TRIVIA.

YOU CAN DREAM ABOUT IDOLS...

...BUT DON'T DREAM OF BECOMING ONE.

BASICALLY, THEIR INCOME IS LOW.

THEY'RE RETIRED BEFORE THE AGE OF 30.

THEY'RE CONSTANTLY BEING WATCHED BY THEIR FANS.

THERE AREN'T AS MANY JOBS WHERE THE COST AND RETURN ARE NOT BALANCED AS THIS.

IN THE END, MOST OF THEM HAVE TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB.

THE SURVIVAL RATE IN THE INDUSTRY AFTER GRADUATION IS LOW.

WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

SOME PEOPLE DIE WITHOUT HAVING THAT OPPORTUNITY, YOU KNOW!

IF YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT THE COST AND RETURN, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING!

DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IS WHAT LIFE IS ABOUT, RIGHT?

DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT, THEN.

I'M GOING TO SEE THE DIREC-TOR.

FWIP

I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THAT.

ONII-CHAN'S CHANGED ...

...SINCE MAMA PASSED AWAY.

IT SEEMS THAT HE'S BEEN DOING SOMETHING SINCE HE BECAME THE DIRECTOR'S DISCIPLE,

BUT HE WON'T TELL ME WHAT IT IS.

HE ALWAYS LOOKS GLOOMY,

AND HE'S NEVER HAD FUN.

...SO MIYAKO SAITO TOOK OVER THE COMPANY.

...WITH THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS AFTER THAT INCIDENT...

WE'VE LOST CONTACT...

ONII-CHAN ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS CHANGED, THOUGH.

Strawberry Productions Inc.

Saito

B-KOMACHI, WHICH HAD LOST ITS STAR, AI, DISBANDED TWO YEARS LATER.

RATHER, THEY'VE CONTINUED THEIR OPERATION BY MANAGING INTERNET TALENT.

THE CURRENT STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION DOESN'T HAVE AN IDOL DEPARTMENT.

EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

WHY DON'T YOU LAUNCH AN IDOL GROUP AGAIN?

HEY.

A MIRACLE LIKE THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

THE MORE I DO THIS JOB, THE MORE I UNDER-STAND.

THE DREAM THAT AI SHOWED US...

...IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE FOR-GOTTEN.

IF I COULD, I WOULD.

REALITY IS NOT THAT EASY.

YOU HAVE TO THINK OF IT AS WINNING THE LOTTERY.

NEVER MIND.

IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF YOUR AUDITION, RIGHT?

BE-SIDES?

BE-SIDES...

IF YOU PASS, YOU'LL BE AFFILIATED TO THEM ANYWAY.

THEY'RE A MUCH BETTER AGENCY THAN OURS.

WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT—

BEEP

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

VRRR

...

...

RUBY...

BEEP

I DIDN'T MAKE IT...

THERE'S ALWAYS SOME KIND OF POLITICS.

YOU CAN'T EXPECT THEM TO JUDGE YOU FAIRLY.

THAT'S REALITY FOR YOU.

NOT EVERYONE CAN BE LIKE AI.

THANKS, DIRECTOR.

We look forward to your participation again next time.

Gotanda Studio

Sign: Gotanda

GRAB

YOU CAN EVEN FOOL YOUR TWIN SISTER.

YOU'RE A DAMN GOOD ACTOR.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF SHE GETS A CALL FROM THE REAL PERSON IN CHARGE?

I USED RUBY'S PHONE TO SEND A SHORT MESSAGE TO THEM, SAYING THAT SHE'S WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUDITION.

I ALSO BLOCKED THEIR NUMBER, SO SHE WON'T RECEIVE THEIR CALLS.

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I DON'T GET IT.

SHE'S QUITE THE BEAUTY. SHE MIGHT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A STAR.

WHY WOULD YOU GO THAT FAR TO CRUSH YOUR SISTER'S DREAM?

SAY NO MORE.

I WON'T LET HER BE AN IDOL...

...AND MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS AI.

I'LL...

I CAN DO THIS ALONE.

ABSO-LUTELY NOT.

...CARRY THIS THROUGH MYSELF.

YOU'RE TOO OVER-PROTEC-TIVE.

YOU HAVE A SEVERE CASE OF SISTER COM-PLEX, HUH?

...

【推しの子】

AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI

CHAPTER 12

TRANSLATED BY FELICIA SUMALI
LETTERED BY YKS SERVICES, LLC
EDITED BY JORDAN REYNOLDS
MEDIA DO CO. LTD. / YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, INC.

YOU'VE BEEN SCOUT-ED?!

AS A SO-CALLED UNDER-GROUND IDOL!

YUP!

CHAPTER 12
THIRD OPTION

Card: Tadashi Tanaka

MAMA ALSO BECAME AN IDOL AFTER BEING SCOUTED, RIGHT?

I MEAN, I'VE BEEN EYEING THE RECRUITMENT FOR THE UNDERGROUND IDOLS FOR A LONG TIME.

THIS IS FATE, I'M SURE!!

NOT AT ALL!

NOT SOME KIND OF SHADY JOB?

IS IT REALLY AN IDOL GROUP?

SHE MUST'VE GUIDED ME TO THIS PATH!

HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU. THEY HAVE VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE!

WELL.
Card: Tadashi Tanaka

THEY'LL LET ME WATCH THEIR UP-COMING CONCERT.

THE CONTRACT AND THE LIKE WILL COME AFTER THAT!

DID YOU CONFIRM WHAT KIND OF CON-TRACT IT WAS?

I TOLD YOU!

THEY DO SEEM LEGIT.

I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

HM.

I'LL MAKE HER QUIT BY ANY MEANS.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT AGAIN.

ANOTHER PAIN IN THE NECK, HUH?

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO AI,

I CAN SEE WHY YOU DON'T WANT YOUR CUTE LITTLE SISTER TO FOLLOW THE SAME PATH AS HER.

I'M WITH YOU, TO BE HONEST.

UNTIL NOW, I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT...

...WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED HAD I DONE SOMETHING DIFFERENT BACK THEN.

I RAISED RUBY AS IF SHE WAS MY OWN DAUGHTER...

...SO I DON'T WANT TO FEEL THAT WAY AGAIN.

HOWEVER, I CAN'T STOP HER, EITHER.

SHE LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE AI...

...AND SHE DOES HAVE THE QUALITIES.

IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE.

WE SHOULD JUST...

...LET HER DO IT.

BESIDES, YOU'RE DOING ALL KINDS OF STUFF AT THE DIRECTOR'S TOO, RIGHT?

FROM MY PERSPEC-TIVE, YOU'RE EXACTLY THE SAME.

...

BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT IT'S A GOOD IDEA, THERE'S SOME-THING I NEED TO DO.

LET ME BORROW THE COM-PANY'S BUSINESS CARD FOR A BIT.

HUH...?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

Sign: Monja

HELLO, THERE.

DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

WHAT IS IT?

LET ME INTRO-DUCE MYSELF.

(株)苺プロ
神崎 光

WHAT? YOU'RE FROM STRAW-BERRY PRODUC-TIONS?

Card:
Strawberry Productions Inc.
Hikaru Kanzaki

MY MOM WAS A FAN...

B-KOMACHI BELONGED TO YOUR AGENCY, RIGHT?

YES!

SO YOU'VE HEARD OF US?

I'M IN THE OFFICE OF STRAWBERRY PRODUC-TIONS!

WHOA...!

WELL, THIS IS NO GOOD, FOR SURE...

YOU'RE SO YOUNG, MR. SCOUT.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE UP TO *NO GOOD!*

LET'S WAIT UNTIL THEN BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT RUBY BECOMING AN IDOL.

IF THE MANAGEMENT IS POOR, THEN IT'S OVER.

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF UNDERGROUND IDOLS. IT'S A MIX OF GOOD AND BAD.

AT ANY RATE, LET'S FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GROUP THAT SCOUTED RUBY.

YES!

LALA-CHAN, YOU'RE WORKING FOR A COMPANY CALLED YILIBU, RIGHT?

WELL...

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ***THE TERMS*** YOU'RE WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

SO...

WE'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU A BETTER DEAL.

WE'RE GUARANTEED MINIMUM INCOME ON THE CONDITION THAT WE SHOW UP IN EVERY CONCERT.

THEY ALSO GIVE US ***COMMISSIONS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF PICTURES WE TAKE*** WITH THE FANS AFTER THAT.

THAT'S OUR MAIN INCOME.

BUT THEN, THEY'LL TAKE EXPENSES FROM US.

THINGS LIKE COSTUMES, TRANSPORTATION, AND MAKEUP. WE PAY THEM WITH OUR OWN MONEY.

MOST OF THE TIME, OUR INCOME IS LESS THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN* PER MONTH.

*About 1000 USD

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT MAKES YOU UNHAPPY WITH YOUR GROUP?

OF COURSE.

THERE'S ***AN IDOL WHO'S BEING HEAVILY PROMOTED*** RIGHT NOW.

IT'S CLEARLY FAVORITISM!

OH, DEAR.

THE REASON IS PROBABLY BECAUSE *SHE'S GOING OUT WITH THE HIGHER-UPS.*

NO MATTER HOW HARD I WORK, IF THE MANAGE-MENT ISN'T DOING THEIR JOB, I CAN NEVER SOAR!

PISSED

PISSED

...BUT SHE LURES THOSE IDOL NERDS AND STEALS THE OTHER MEMBERS' FANS.

HER SINGING IS NOT THAT GOOD AND SHE'S NOT THAT PRETTY...

IF I COULD SWITCH TO STRAW-BERRY PRODUC-TIONS, I...

...AND THE MANAGEMENT IS SCOUTING PEOPLE LIKE CRAZY.

THE ATMO-SPHERE WITHIN OUR GROUP IS NOT GOOD, EITHER.

SOME PEOPLE ARE THINKING OF QUIT-TING...

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE A TRACK RECORD OF RUNNING UNDER-GROUND IDOLS,

BUT THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING IT PARTLY AS A HOBBY BECAUSE THEY LOVE IDOLS.

OBVIOUSLY, WE DON'T KNOW IF THAT GIRL WAS TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT.

FALSE RUMORS THAT ARE BORN OF JEALOUSY AND FRICTION AMONG MEM-BERS...

...AS WELL AS DISSATISFAC-TION WITH THE MANAGEMENT ARE PRETTY COMMON.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, PUTTING TOGETHER A GROUP OF YOUNG GIRLS IS ALREADY A DAUNTING TASK.

EVEN WITH B-KOMACHI, WE WERE ACCUSED OF PLAYING FAVORITISM BECAUSE ONLY AI WAS POPU-LAR AMONG THEM.

AH, I GET A STOM-ACHACHE JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

EITHER WAY, WE CAN'T LET RUBY JOIN A GROUP WITH RUMORS LIKE THAT.

SO? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

WE CAN GO MANY DIFFERENT ROUTES.

NOT...

...UNDER THE MAN-AGEMENT I CAN'T TRUST, AT LEAST.

I WON'T LET RUBY BE AN IDOL.

I'M NOT JOKING.

STOP MAKING A JOKE LIKE THAT.

FOR INSTANCE, WE CAN HIRE A DETECTIVE AND SPREAD IT ONLINE.

...

HELL NO. WE DON'T DO IDOLS ANYMORE. YOU KNOW THAT.

BY THE WAY,

ARE YOU GOING TO HIRE THAT GIRL?

BE-SIDES...

WE'RE NOT THE KIND OF AGENCY THAT HIRES SOME-ONE WHO BAD MOUTHS HER OWN COL-LEAGUES.

(株)苺プロ

斉藤

Sign: Strawberry Productions Inc.
Saito

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YOU LOOK ADOR-ABLE.

Tee hee...

WE NEED TO DRESS FOR THE OCCA-SION, RIGHT?

REALLY...

RUBY.

ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?

THE WORLD OF IDOLS YOU'RE ABOUT TO ENTER...

...IS NOT ALL SUN-SHINE AND ROSES, YOU KNOW?

YOU MIGHT EVEN GET ATTACKED BY STALKERS.

YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE A CERTAIN WAY BECAUSE YOU'RE CONSTANTLY WATCHED BY STRANGERS.

THE SALARY ISN'T GREAT, EITHER.

YOU MIGHT NOT SELL WELL AND FEEL MISERABLE ABOUT IT.

YES, OF COURSE!

WITH ALL THAT IN MIND, DO YOU STILL—

I'LL FINALLY BE AN IDOL...

I KNOW I CAN BECOME ONE!

I'LL DO MY BEST!

JUST LIKE MAMA WAS!

YES!

...ARE YOU SERIOUS?

I'M... REALLY GOING TO BE AN IDOL...

HUH...? WHY NOT?

IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULDN'T JOIN THEIR AGENCY.

IF YOU MEAN BUSI-NESS,

YOU SHOULD JOIN OURS, INSTEAD.

STRAW-BERRY PRODUC-TIONS...

...IS GOING TO LAUNCH A NEW IDOL GROUP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN A DECADE.

Sign: Strawberry Productions Inc.
Saito

CHAPTER 13
PROCEDURE

NEXT, PLEASE STAMP ACROSS THESE TWO PAGES.

STAMP ACROSS...?

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, BUT I JUST NEED TO STAMP HERE, RIGHT?

Translated by Felicia Sumali
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

HOW SCARY.

IF YOU MESS UP, I'LL SUE YOU.

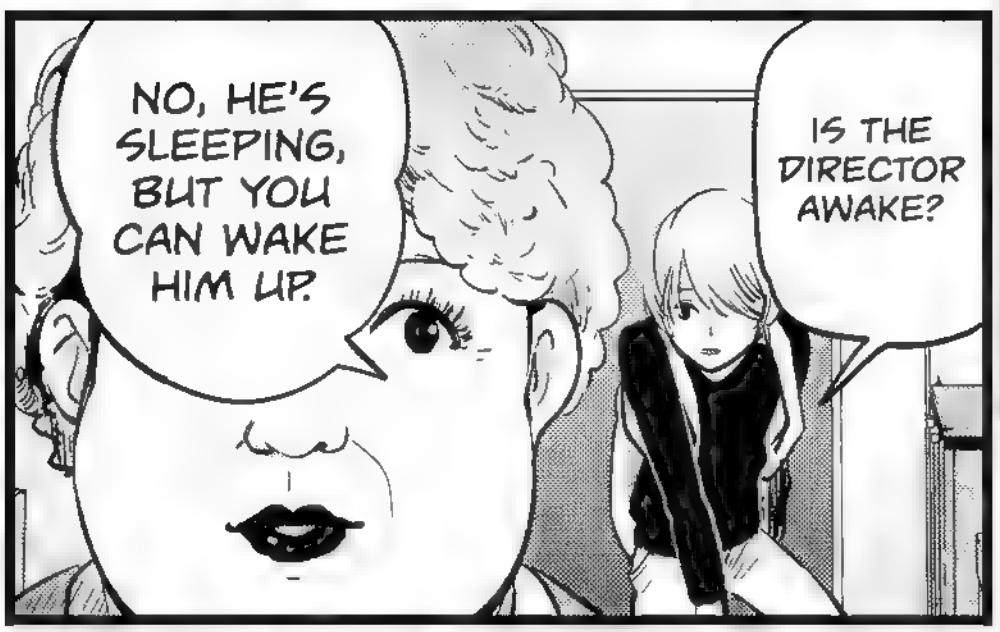
YEAH, AND WITH THAT, YOU'RE OFFICIALLY PART OF STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS NOW.

SO DON'T BE MAD, AQUA.

THIS PROCEDURE IS NECESSARY FOR HER TO ENTER THE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM,

I'M NOT AGAINST IT.

Sign (top): Gotanda Studio
Sign (bottom): Gotanda



OH, YOU'RE HERE.

THIS IS YOUR ASSIGN-MENT.

OKAY.

EDIT IT SO IT'LL LOOK GOOD.

I'M STILL A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT.

I'M TOO YOUNG TO WORK PART-TIME, SO I CAN'T GAIN EXPE-RIENCE IN THE FIELD.

THEREFORE, THE DIRECTOR IS LETTING ME HELP HIM PRODUCE HIS MOVIES.

IN A SENSE, I'M LIKE HIS DISCIPLE.

I SEE. YOUR SISTER IS GOING TO BE AN IDOL, AFTER ALL.

AS HER BROTHER, ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

WELL, SHE'LL BE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR RELATIVES.

IT'S CERTAINLY BETTER THAN HAVING HER JOIN SOME SHADY AGENCY.

SO BOTH SIBLINGS ARE GOING TO BE ENTERTAINERS, HUH?

NOT ME. I JUST WANT TO WORK BEHIND-THE-SCENES NOW.

DON'T YOU WANT TO BE AN ACTOR AGAIN?

THE SCHOOL YOU AND YOUR SISTER ARE GOING TO HAS A PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT, RIGHT?

SHE'S THE ONE WHO WILL TAKE THAT PROGRAM.

I'M TAKING THE GENERAL COURSE.

WHEN YOU FIRST VOLUN-TEERED TO BE MY DISCIPLE,

YOU SAID THAT YOU'D DEFINITELY BE AN ACTOR...

...BUT YOU'VE JUST SAT THERE ON THE FENCE.

...IS JUST A WAY...

FOR ME, BEING AN ACTOR...

IN OTHER WORDS, OUR FATHER.

I WANT HIM TO EXPERI-ENCE THE SAME PAIN AS AI.

...TO FIND THE MAN WHO KILLED AI.

HOWEVER,

IN ORDER FOR ME TO DO THAT, I NEED TO BE IN A POSITION WHERE I CAN DIRECTLY CONTACT THE PERFORM-ERS...

I CAN IDENTIFY HIM BY ANALYZING THE DNA CONTAINED IN HIS HAIR OR BODY FLUIDS.

LUCKILY, I HAVE THE MEANS TO FIND HIM.

EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE JUST MINOR ROLES...

...YOU LET ME APPEAR IN SOME OF YOUR WORKS, AND I REAL-IZED THAT...

BUT THEN, AS LONG AS I'M INVOLVED IN THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD, I DON'T MIND BEING AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OR WORKING BEHIND-THE-SCENES.

...AND THE FASTEST WAY TO DO SO IS TO BE AN ACTOR.

...I DON'T HAVE A TALENT FOR ACTING.

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I'LL NEVER MAKE IT.

I'M JUST A NOBODY.

I DON'T HAVE "SOMETHING SPECIAL" LIKE AI.

I SHOULDN'T DREAM BIG TO BEGIN WITH.

HMPH...!

IF A BRAT DOESN'T DREAM BIG, NO ONE CAN HAVE A DREAM AT ALL.

IT'S TOO SOON EVEN FOR A COLLEGE STUDENT TO GIVE UP ON THEIR DREAMS.

I'LL ONLY SAY IT ONCE.

LISTEN CAREFULLY!

THIS ADVICE IS COMING FROM A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WHO HAS BEEN DREAMING FOR 20 YEARS.

TAISHI!!

SLAM

DINNER'S READY, SO COME DOWN!!

IF YOU DON'T BUY A LOTTERY TICKET, YOU CAN NEVER—

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO DREAM BIG.

AW, JEEZ. LOOK AT YOUR ROOM. IT'S SO MESSY.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I LIVED IN OBSCURITY LIKE YOU,

BUT—

IF I WAIT UNTIL YOU COME DOWN, THE MISO SOUP WILL GET COLD!

HOW WOULD I KNOW YOU'D DO THAT?!

MOOOM! DON'T JUST BARGE IN LIKE THAT! I WAS ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING GOOD!

JUST LEAVE AL-READY!!

HEY.

YOU'RE IN YOUR *MID 40S*, RIGHT?

ISN'T IT TIME FOR YOU TO LIVE INDE-PENDENTLY?

MY PARENTS' HOUSE IS BIG AND LOCATED IN THE HEART OF A CITY! WHAT'S THE POINT OF MOVING OUT?

ANYWAY...

YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED BECAUSE YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.

ESPE-CIALLY IF THEY'RE AN ARTIST!!

SURPRIS-INGLY, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE ME, YOU KNOW!

IF YOU DON'T BUY A LOTTERY TICKET, YOU CAN NEVER WIN.

MY POINT IS, YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONFIDENT IN WHAT YOU CAN DO.

YOU'RE AN OLD MAN LIVING IN YOUR PAR-ENTS' HOUSE. YOUR WORDS AREN'T CON-VINCING AT ALL.

AI WAS AMAZ-ING, INDEED.

SHE WAS A REALLY SPECIAL PERSON.

AI, AI, AI, AI. JUST STOP ALREADY. ARE YOU AN IDIOT OR WHAT?

BUT I COULD NEVER BE LIKE AI—

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I BELIEVED THAT I HAD THE SAME TALENT AS AI.

...AND SHE CAN NEVER BE YOU.

HOWEVER, YOU CAN NEVER BE HER...

YOU CAN ONLY DO THAT ONCE YOU NO LONGER HAVE TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE.

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A MEDIOCRE PERSON.

YOU SHOULDN'T STOP DREAMING JUST BECAUSE OF A FAIL-URE OR TWO.

YOU KNOW HOW TO EDIT MOVIES BE-CAUSE YOU'VE LEARNED IT FROM ME FOR 10 YEARS. AI DIDN'T HAVE THAT EXPERI-ENCE...

...AND SHE WASN'T AS SMART AS YOU, EITHER.

IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

YOU WANT TO BE AN ACTOR, RIGHT?

...AN ACTOR?

AQUA...

HEY, DIRECTOR.

...

SLAM

I'LL PREPARE IT FOR YOU!

AQUA, YOU'RE HAVING DINNER WITH US, RIGHT?!

I—

WHO CARES?!

THE PRODIGY WAS ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING GOOD!

JUST GET OUT ALREADY!

THIS IS "YOTO HIGH."

IT'S ONE OF THE FEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN JAPAN THAT OFFERS THE "PERFORMING ARTS" PROGRAM.

NOT EVERYONE CAN TAKE IT.

FOR INSTANCE, YOU NEED PROOF THAT YOU BELONG TO AN ENTER-TAINMENT AGENCY.

Sign: Yoto High

Sign: Performing Arts Department Interview Room

芸能科面接会場

I'M AFFILIATED WITH STRAWBERRY PRODUC-TIONS!

MY NAME IS RUBY HOSHINO!!

Sign: General Course Interview Room

一般科面接会場

AQUAMA-RINE HOSHI-NO...

...IS MY NAME.

WHAT A NAME YOU'VE GOT THERE.

WHAT MADE YOU SO FASCINATED?!

I WAS ATTRACTED TO YOUR SCHOOL TRADITION...

He had the experience of passing Tokyo Medical School.
↓

YOU HAVE A STANDARD SCORE OF 70?!

WE ONLY REQUIRED 40. WHY WOULD YOU EVEN GO TO OUR SCHOOL?!

HOW WAS IT?

I THINK I'LL BE FINE.

AND YOU?

YEAH.

YOUR REAL NAME IS AQUAMARINE, AFTER ALL.

THERE WAS NO PROBLEM.

BUT IF BY ANY CHANCE I FAILED THE INTERVIEW, I'D BLAME MY NAME.

HA HA HA!

BUT IT'S A MOUTH-FUL, SO EVERYONE JUST CALLS YOU AQUA.

...

AQUA-MARINE.

AQUA.

AQUA HOSHINO?!

AQUA, AQUA!

YOU'RE AQUA HOSHINO?!

WHO ARE YOU...?

OH! ISN'T SHE...

YOU MEAN "CRY ON THE SPOT"?!

...THE GENIUS CHILD ACTOR WHO CAN LIE ON A YACHT?

I THOUGHT YOU'D QUIT ALREADY.

THANK GOOD-NESS.

OH, HEY. LONG TIME NO SEE.

IT'S ME, KANA ARIMA. WE COMPETED IN A MOVIE BEFORE!

DID YOU APPLY FOR THE PER-FORMING ARTS DEPART-MENT HERE?

I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU.

ARE YOU JOINING THE PERFORM-ING ARTS PROGRAM?!

SO?!

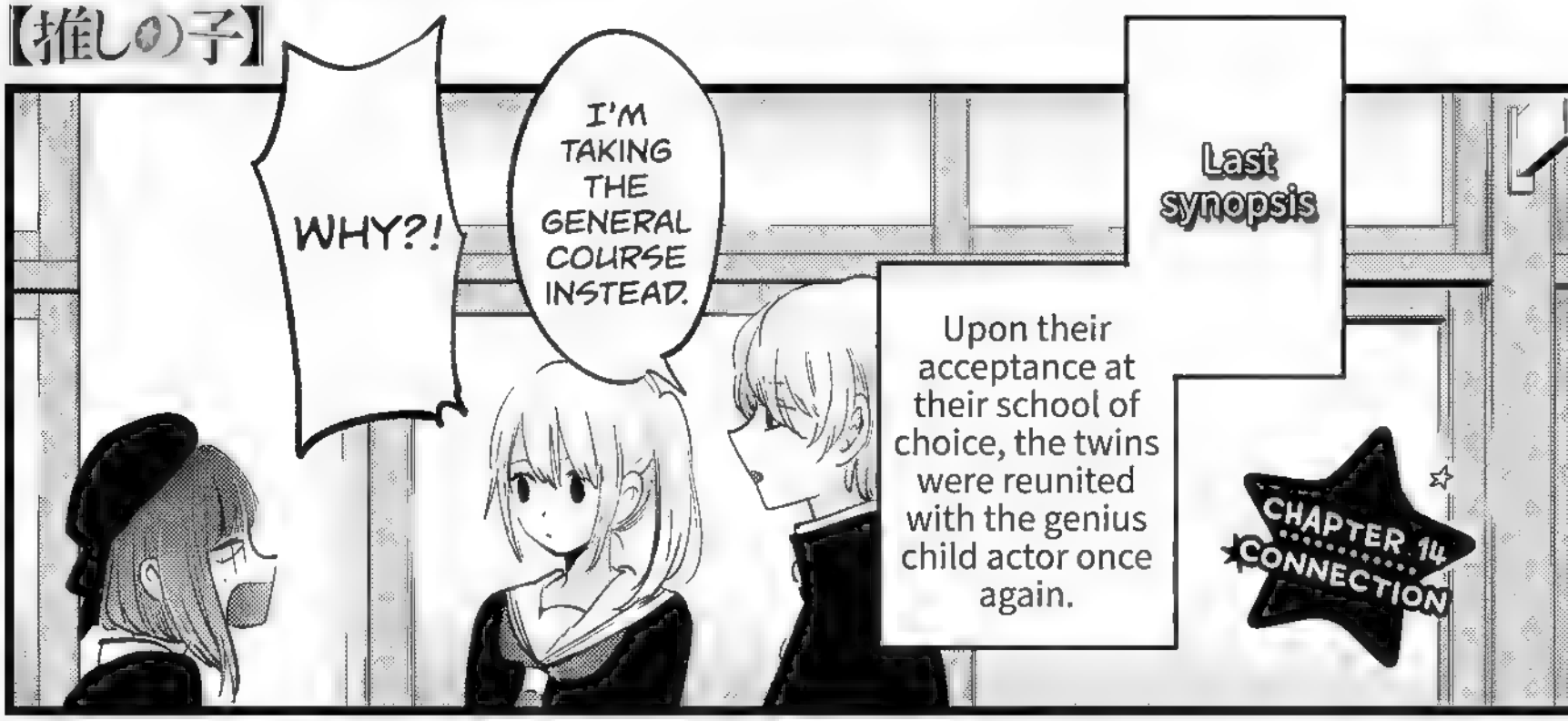
NO...

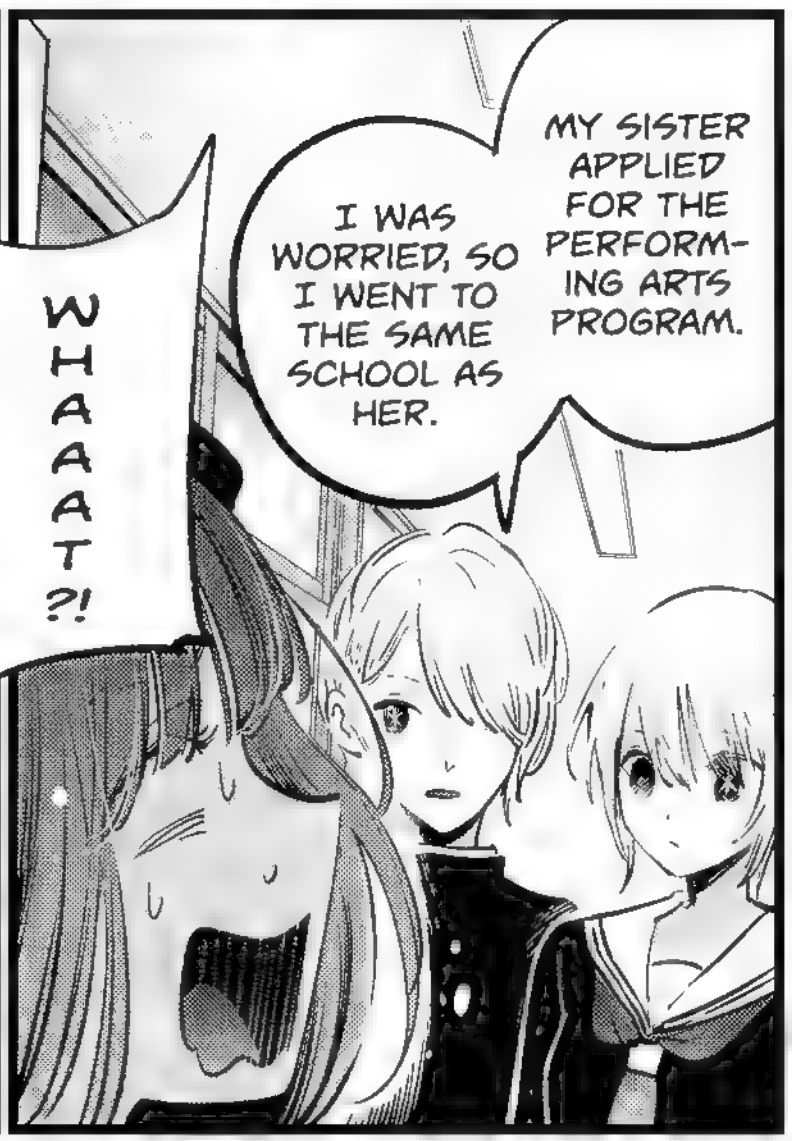
I'M TAKING THE GENERAL COURSE INSTEAD.

WHY?!

【推しの子】

【推しの子】


WHY?!
I'M TAKING THE GENERAL COURSE INSTEAD.
Last synopsis
Upon their acceptance at their school of choice, the twins were reunited with the genius child actor once again.
CHAPTER 14
CONNECTION



Translated by Felicia Sumali
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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SIGH...

I HAVE NO CHOICE. LET'S BE FRIENDS, LOLI-SENPAI.

I'LL PICK ON YOU! I MEAN IT!

WELL, I'M GOING TO SEE THE DIRECTOR.

OKAY, SEE YOU.

WAIT.

I SAID WAIT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHO IS THIS DIRECTOR YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?!

WHAT MIDDLE SCHOOL DID YOU GO TO?!

WHAT ARE YOU? A DELIN-QUENT?

WHERE DO YOU LIVE NOW?!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW ME?

UNTIL YOU'VE ANSWERED ALL MY QUES-TIONS!!

NO, NOT ANYMORE.

HUH...?

YOU'RE STILL ACTING, RIGHT?

I...

...SEE.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW—

WHAT?!

LET'S TALK A BIT MORE!

HEY! WANNA GO TO KARAOKE WITH ME?

NO, THANKS.

NO? WHAT ABOUT MY HOUSE, THEN?

THE WAY YOU'RE TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO SOME-ONE IS CREEPY.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT? I'M STILL A CELEBRITY WHETHER OR NOT YOU LIKE IT.

I CAN'T POSSIBLY GO TO CAFES JUST TO TALK!

BUT AT THIS HOUR, SHOPS THAT OFFER PRIVATE ROOMS AREN'T OPEN YET...!

THAT'S YOUR CONCERN?

IN THAT CASE...

OH! YOU'RE KANA ARIMA!

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE. LOOK HOW BIG YOU ARE NOW!

NO, WELL...

「見ないウチに」

I'M STILL ACTING, YOU KNOW.

AND COMPARED TO WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I'M—

STAB

AQUA!

IF YOU'RE NOT ACTING ANYMORE, WHY DO YOU VISIT THE DIRECTOR REGULARLY?

IS HE TEACHING YOU A THING OR TWO ABOUT ACTING?

WELL, HE'S TEACHING ME A LITTLE BIT OF EVERY-THING...

...BUT MY FOCUS IS ON BEHIND-THE-SCENES THINGS, SO I'M WORKING AS HIS AS-SISTANT NOW.

I SEE.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.

AT LEAST YOU'RE STILL IN THIS INDUSTRY.

WHO WANTS SEC-ONDS?!

I'M TRYING TO CUT BACK ON CARBS...

IF YOU DON'T EAT, YOU CAN'T GROW, EITHER!

OH. I'M FINE.

AS USUAL, YOU HAVE NO RESPECT FOR ADULTS, EH?

THE DIREC-TOR IS STILL LIVING *WITH HIS PARENTS LIKE A PARA-SITE.*

BUT WHAT A SHOCK.

IT MUST BE EXPENSIVE.

FOR MY MEALS, I ALWAYS RELY ON DELIVERY.

...AND I LIVE BY MYSELF IN A DORM.

HOW NICE.

MY PARENTS HAVE RETIRED TO THE COUNTRY-SIDE...

I'M FINE!

I'VE *SAVED UP SO MUCH MONEY FROM WHEN I WAS A CHILD ACTOR.* I CAN USE IT ANYTIME I WANT!

あHAはHAは HA：

SHIT. I HATE THIS GIRL, ALL RIGHT.

HEY, DIRECTOR.

DO YOU HAVE ANY VIDEOS OF AQUA'S ACTING?

I SUPPOSE.

DON'T SHOW HER!

THEY'RE JUST DELUSIONS OF MY DARK PAST.

I THOUGHT I WAS TALENTED, BUT I WAS WRONG.

THOSE WORKS WERE TERRIBLE.

YOU HEARD HIM.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE THEM, YOU'LL HAVE TO PERSUADE HIM YOURSELF.

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY, HUH?

IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

I'M...

...WORKING ON A PROJECT AS THE LEAD ACTRESS NOW...

...AND THEY STILL HAVE SOME AVAILABLE ROLES.

DO YOU WANT ME TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BIG SHOTS FOR YOU?

IT'S A DRAMA SERIES BASED ON THIS GIRLS' MANGA CALLED I'LL GO WITH SWEET TODAY.

WHAT KIND OF PROJECT IS IT?

WHAAAT?!

NO, THANKS.

YEAH, DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

SWEET TODAY?

I TOLD YOU, I'VE QUIT ACTING...

IF I TALK IT OVER, YOU MIGHT GET THE ROLE RIGHT AWAY, YOU KNOW?

SO? ARE YOU INTER-ESTED?

IT'S A MASTER-PIECE, RIGHT?

ANYONE WHO DABBLES IN THE ENTER-TAINMENT INDUSTRY WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT.

THE PRODUCER, KABURAGI-SAN, IS FOND OF ME, AFTER ALL!

KABUR-AGI?

YOU MEAN MASAYA KABURA-GI?

YEAH?

AI LEFT BEHIND THREE MOBILE PHONES WHEN SHE DIED.

...ONLY HAD GROUP MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF'S INFORMATION.

THESE PHONES...

ONE FOR WORK, AND ONE FOR PERSONAL USE.

FROM HER SMARTPHONES ALONE, I COULD TELL THAT SHE HAD GIVEN HER ALL TO PROTECT OUR SECRETS.

AI MIGHT SEEM CARELESS,

BUT SHE WAS MORE CAUTIOUS THAN YOU'D EXPECT.

THE PROBLEM IS THE THIRD PHONE.

THIS IS THE SMART-PHONE THAT SHE USED BEFORE SHE GOT PREGNANT.

UNFORTU-NATELY, THE BATTERY HAD STOPPED WORKING A LONG TIME AGO.

FINDING A BATTERY THAT COULD STILL BE USED WITH A SUPER OLD MODEL WAS ALREADY A PAIN IN THE NECK,

BUT IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE TROUBLE I HAD TO GO THROUGH TO CRACK THE PASSWORD.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY DIGITS THE PASSWORD WAS.

EVERY TIME I MADE A MISTAKE, I HAD TO WAIT FOR 30 SECONDS BEFORE I COULD TRY ANOTHER ONE.

I JUST TRIED ONE BY ONE, AGAIN AND AGAIN, EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Screen: Wrong Password

パスワードが
違います

0 9 5

1 2 3

A MONTH TO MAKE 1000 ATTEMPTS.

IT TOOK ME HALF A DAY TO TRY 100 DIFFERENT PASS-WORDS.

ONE BY ONE.

AGAIN AND AGAIN.

EVERY SINGLE DAY.

45510

I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO UNLOCK IT...

...AFTER 45,510 ATTEMPTS.

IT TOOK ME FOUR YEARS TO DO SO.

THERE ARE MORE THAN A DOZEN ENTERTAIN-MENT-RELATED EMAIL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS ON THAT SMART-PHONE...

...AND ONE OF THEM WAS...

アドレス帳

鏑木勝也

080-0988-

masa-heaven

Screen: Address Book
Masaya Kaburagi

Phone:
Address Book
A B C D E F G H
Kawataro
Iida-san
Shiro
Kawa-san
Goro
San
Producer
Ya
Ichiro
Producer
San

MASAYA KABU-RAGI.

...AND THE LEAD ACTOR HAS A GIRLY FACE.

HE'S SO CUTE!

MOST OF THE CAST ARE ABOUT THE SAME AGE...

COME ON, JUST GO FOR IT!

WHY ARE YOU SO MOTI-VATED ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WHAT?!

CALL THE PRODUCER FOR ME.

I'LL DO IT.

"AND THE LEAD ACTOR HAS A GIRLY FACE."

NO WAY!

YOU'RE INTO THAT KIND OF THING...?!

I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME TO GO FOR IT?

I'M LOOKING FOR-WARD TO SEEING YOU ACT AGAIN, AQUA.

BUT...

...THE SET IS NOT PROBLEM FREE, SO GET READY FOR IT, OKAY?

HMMM.

HE'S BEEN ACTING SINCE HE WAS A CHILD?

WELL, HE'S QUITE HAND-SOME.

...IF KANA-CHAN, THE ACTING PRINCESS, WANTS HIM SO BADLY...

...THEN SURE, WE CAN CALL HIM.

Internet TV Station, "Dot TV!" associate...

...and the producer of the live-action drama, *I'll Go with Sweet Today*, Masaya Kaburagi.

I DON'T CARE...

...WHO PLAYS THE ROLE, ANYWAY.

AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI
【推しの子】
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TWINS

CHAPTER 15
MANGA BASED DRAMA SERIES

WHAT?!

AQUA IS APPEARING IN A DRAMA?!

IT'S THE AGENCY'S JOB TO PUBLICIZE THE TALENTS THEY BELONG TO.

BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T TELL HER YOURSELF.

WHY DID YOU TELL HER?

YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HER WORDS, HUH?

...AND AQUA AN ACTOR.

I MIGHT BECOME AN IDOL IN THE FUTURE...

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF ADULTS YOU'LL BECOME.

MAMA SAID IT BEFORE, DIDN'T SHE?

...SO I COULD GET A STRAND OF HIS HAIR.

I JUST WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PRODUCER, MASAYA KABURAGI, WHO HAD CONTACT WITH AI WHEN SHE WAS STILL ALIVE...

THAT'S NOT IT.

THEY SOUND NOBLE, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT.

TWINS

LONGING TO BE AN ACTOR?

GRANTING AI'S WISH?

SWEET TODAY? AQUA HAS THAT MANGA!

IT WAS INTEREST-ING!

DON'T READ WITHOUT PERMIS-SION.

SO, WHAT'S THE TITLE AGAIN?

I'LL GO WITH SWEET TODAY.

IT'S BASED ON A GIRL'S MANGA.

Manga: I'll Go with Sweet Today

IT'S A NEW DRAMA SERIES PRODUCED BY AN INTERNET TV STATION.

THERE ARE SIX EPISODES IN TOTAL, AND THREE OF THEM HAVE ALREADY AIRED.

MOST OF THE MAIN CAST ARE NEW-COMERS, SO IN TERMS OF SCALE, IT'S A RATHER SMALL PROJECT.

AQUA WILL PLAY *THE ROLE OF A VILLAIN IN THE FINAL EPISODE.*

THAT SUITS YOU.

BE QUIET.

YOU HAVE AN *EVIL-LOOK-ING FACE,* AFTER ALL.

IT'S AN ONLINE DRAMA, SO WE CAN WATCH IT NOW IF YOU WANT.

I DO, I DO!

THRILLED

THRILLED

I HATE PEOPLE.

THEY'RE SELFISH. THEY ONLY THINK ABOUT THEM-SELVES.

OH! IT'S LOLI-SENPAI!

DO YOU ENJOY MAKING THAT FACE?

...

...

STOP MAKING FUN OF ME.

YOU'RE CUTER WHEN YOU SMILE, YOU KNOW?

THAT'S TOO BAD.

STOP FIGHTING!

HUH?! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

DON'T LAY A FINGER ON MY GIRL!

...

...

SHUT

!!

WAS THAT REALLY *SWEET* TODAY?

IN GENERAL ...? NO.

THEY WERE TRYING TO SQUEEZE 14 MANGA VOLUMES INTO JUST THREE EPISODES.

OF COURSE THEY HAD TO CUT PARTS OF THE STORY.

AND THE PLOT TWIST ...?

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT IN MANGA, RIGHT?

THE PRODUCTION IS QUITE SOLID, SO IT'S NOT UNWATCHABLE,

THEY MUST'VE WANTED TO USE AS MANY ACTORS AS POSSIBLE.

BUT THEY'RE FOCUSING ON *ORIGINAL CHARACTERS THAT AREN'T EVEN IN THE MANGA.*

IT SEEMS THAT MOST OF THE CAST ARE MODELS WITH NO ACTING EXPERIENCE.

BUT THEIR ACTING—

RUBY, YOU'RE TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD.

IT'S TERRIBLE!

Like seriously?!

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...?

...I THOUGHT LOLI-SENPAI WAS BETTER THAN THAT?

THAT ASIDE...

Sign: Karaoke

カラオケ缶

JUST SHUT THE HELL UP...!!

DID YOUR SISTER SAY THAT?!

I HOPE SHE'LL DIE AND GO TO HELL NOW!

YOUR TONGUE IS STILL AS SHARP AS EVER.

LET ME DEFEND MYSELF FOR THE SAKE OF MY REPUTATION.

THERE AREN'T MANY HIGH SCHOOLERS WHO CAN ACT AS GOOD AS I DO, YOU KNOW?

SO? WHAT HAPPENED, REALLY?

...

THEIR TARGET AUDIENCE FOR THIS DRAMA IS *GIRLS WHO LIKE GOOD-LOOKING GUYS...*

...SO THEY WANTED TO USE AS MANY MODELS THAT THEY PLAN TO PROMOTE AS POSSIBLE.

THEIR ACTING ABILITY CAME SECOND.

10秒で泣ける天才子役

...SO THEY CASTED ME, WHO IS GOOD AT ACTING, AS THE LEAD ACTRESS.

HOWEVER, IF THEY DID THAT, THEY WOULD'VE DESTROYED THEMSELVES...

YOU SAID SO, BUT YOUR ACTING WAS KINDA WEAK.

I WAS HOLDING BACK, OKAY?

Ribbon: Genius child actor who can cry on the spot

PEOPLE NEED EACH OTHER TO MAKE THEM STRONGER.

NICE FINGER-NAILS.

SMILE FOR ME.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ACT PROPERLY AMONG THE MAIN CAST!!

ALL THE ACTORS AROUND ME ARE HAM ACTORS!!

BAD HAM? REALLY NOW?

I WOULD JUST MAKE IT OBVIOUS HOW TERRIBLE THESE HAM ACTORS WERE! LIKE HAM THAT HAS GONE BAD.

IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WENT ALL OUT!

UNFORTU-NATELY, GOOD ACTING AND MAKING GOOD PRO-DUCTIONS ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

IF I COULD, I'D GIVE MY ALL, YOU KNOW.

WHO TAKES PLEASURE IN ACTING BADLY ON PURPOSE ANYWAY?

THIS PROJECT IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON THE SALES ASPECT FROM THE BEGINNING.

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN MAKE SUCH WORK INTER-ESTING.

JUST BECAUSE YOUR PERFORMANCE IS STUNNING DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE END PRODUCT WILL BE GOOD.

WHEN THE MANGA ARTIST CAME TO VISIT THE SET DURING THE FILMING OF EPISODE ONE...

...SHE CLEARLY LOOKED DISAPPOINTED, AND IT WAS HEARTBREAK-ING.

NONETHE-LESS...

...WE, THE ACTORS, AND EVERYONE BEHIND THE SCENES WERE DOING OUR BEST...

...BECAUSE WE WANTED TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW THAT COULD PLEASE THE FANS OF THE ORIGINAL MANGA AND THOSE WHO WATCH IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

AS LONG AS...

...I COULD AT LEAST MAKE THE SHOW "WATCH-ABLE"...

I WOULDN'T MIND PUT-TING ON A BAD PER-FORMANCE.

EVEN IF YOUR REP-UTATION AS AN ACTOR IS AT STAKE?

...

COMMUNICA-TION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR ACTORS.

I LIKED TO SHOW OFF MY ACTING IN THE PAST.

YES, I WAS ABLE TO SELL, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I ALSO LOOKED DOWN ON OTHERS.

...I HAD STOPPED RECEIVING JOB OFFERS PAST MY PRIME TIME.

BEFORE I KNEW IT...

THERE WERE KIDS WHO WERE BETTER AT ACTING THAN ME,

BUT THEY STILL HIRED ME.

THAT'S WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT.

HEH HEH. I'VE GROWN UP, AFTER ALL.

WHOA, WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU COULD ACTUALLY BE COOPERATIVE.

I'VE KNOWN THE PRO-DUCER FOR A LONG TIME, TOO.

HE HIRED ME FOR THIS PROJECT BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT I'D KEEP THAT IN MIND.

HAVING SAID THAT, I'M NOW AN EASYGOING ACTOR WHO CARES ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCTION MORE THAN ANY-THING ELSE.

ACTORS SURE ARE CONFI-DENT, EH?

For your information, physical looks are everything for that producer.

BESIDES, WHEN IT COMES TO LOOKS, I DON'T THINK I'M INFERIOR TO THOSE MODELS, EITHER.

AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE FILMING TOMOR-ROW!

THEY'LL EDIT THE CUTS AS SOON AS THEY WRAP FILMING, AND DELIVER THE PROD-UCT RIGHT AFTER!

AND NEXT WEEK, THE EPISODE WILL BE AIRED!

SO THE SCHEDULE SUCKS, TOO.

WE WON'T EVEN DO THE READ-THROUGH. WE'LL JUST GO STRAIGHT TO REHEARSALS AND FILMING, SO GOOD LUCK!

THAT'S WHY I DID MY BEST TO SQUEEZE YOU IN.

BUT THEN, THE ROLE ISN'T VERY APPEALING TO BEGIN WITH.

THE KID WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD YOUR ROLE WAS COMPLAINING A LOT. IT WASN'T EASY TO RE-SCHEDULE EVERYTHING AFTER HE FINALLY QUIT, YOU KNOW.

RUSTLE

HOW NOSTALGIC.

THE SAME THING HAPPENED WHEN I WAS LITTLE. REMEMBER THAT TIME WHEN YOU SAID ALL KINDS OF STUFF TO ME...?

I GOT THE ROLE THROUGH A CONNECTION, AND I'LL SKIP THE TABLE-READ.

I SEE A PATTERN HERE.

HA
HA
HA
HA
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.
I'VE BECOME A DIRTY ADULT, HUH?
BUT THIS TIME, I'M THE ONE WHO GOT YOU IN.
BUT...
...I UNDER-STAND THE DIRECTOR'S FEELINGS NOW.
THEY CAN SPEAK HARSHLY ABOUT ME.
THEY CAN EVEN CALL ME A BAD ACTOR. I DON'T CARE.
YOU KNOW WHY...
...I INVITED YOU, RIGHT?

...HELP ME MAKE A GOOD SHOW.

JUST PLEASE...

I BELIEVE IT'S POS-SIBLE AS LONG AS I'M DOING IT WITH YOU.

THIS IS A COMBINATION OF...

...A BAD PROJECT AND BAD ACTORS.

Book: I'll Go with Sweet Today

HOWEVER, AFTER I LISTENED TO HER AND WATCHED THE SERIES AGAIN,

I REALIZED THAT THE SCRIPT AND DIRECTION WERE ACTUALLY MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACTOR.

EVEN WHEN THE ACTING IS BAD,

THERE ARE ALWAYS TECHNIQUES THAT CAN MAKE THE END PRODUCT WATCHABLE.

THE FILM CREW IS DEFINITELY DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB...

...AND THE LEAD ACTRESS IS TOP-NOTCH.

THINGS JUST MIGHT WORK OUT, AFTER ALL.

今日は甘口で

【推しの子】
AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI
Translated by Felicia Sumali
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services, LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

IN A DRAMA, THE LEADING ACTORS WILL FIRST READ THE SCRIPT AND RHEARSE IN A ROOM...

...AND THE DIRECTORS CUT THE STORYBOARD BASED ON IT.

THE SET PRODUCTION WILL START AFTER THE DRY RUNS AND CAMERA REHEARSALS.

CHAPTER 16 ..... ACTING ABILITY

WELL, THAT'S HOW IT'S NORMALLY DONE...

...BUT SINCE WE COULD ONLY *SECURE THE LOCATION FOR ONE DAY,*

WE'LL DO *EVERYTHING* FROM THE DRY RUN TO RUN THROUGH AT THE SAME TIME.

WHICH MEANS, *WE ONLY GET TO PRACTICE ONCE.*

HOW SLOPPY.

EVEN MY DIRECTOR IS BETTER THAN THAT.

WE HAVE NEITHER THE BUDGET NOR THE TIME.

OH.

YO, KANA.

THE RAIN IS CRAZY TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?

I WISH THEY'D POSTPONE THE FILM-ING.

Lead actor, Melt Narushima. His role is Kanata Aono.

ANYWAY, LET ME INTRODUCE HIM.

HE'LL BE PLAYING THE STALKER TODAY.

WELL, IT'S LEAKING A LITTLE, BUT ALL IN ALL, WE'LL BE FINE.

MY HAIR GETS FRIZZY WHEN IT'S DAMP...

...AND THIS PLACE IS SO HUMID THAT IT FEELS UN-PLEASANT.

SST

MY NAME IS AQUA HOSHINO. NICE TO MEET—

HEY.

HE'S MELT NARUSHI-MA.

AND HE'S PRETTY YOUNG, SO...

RUDE, ISN'T HE? HE DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME HIS NAME.

I'M NOT ONE TO JUDGE, THOUGH.

WELL, MOST PEOPLE WHO GET POPULAR OVERNIGHT ARE LIKE THAT.

...SO GO FOR IT.

IN SHORT, GREETING PEOPLE IS A VERY IMPORTANT JOB...

PUSH

THAT'S WHY THEY KEEP GETTING HIRED.

THEY WANT US TO BE POLITE, WELL LIKED ON THE SET, AND AVOID MAKING MISTAKES.

THAT SAID, CERTAIN IDOL AGENCIES AND THE LIKE HAVE A FAIRLY SOLID EDUCATION.

YEAH, YEAH.
HELLO. MY NAME IS AQUA HOSHINO FROM STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS.
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME TODAY.

...

...AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN AI'S DEATH.

HE COULD BE THE FATHER OF RUBY AND I...

MASAYA KABURAGI.

A MAN WHO HAD SOME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH AI HOSHINO.

THAT MAN JUST NOW IS THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THIS SET.

I HAVE TO FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLECT WHAT I COULD USE FOR DNA TESTING.

AT ANY RATE, HE JUDGES PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR LOOKS.

THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE WAS WILLING TO HIRE YOU.

And me!

HE ALSO HAS STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH MODELING AGENCIES...

...AND HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE CASTING THIS TIME.

HE'LL SHARE HIS OPINIONS WITH THE DIRECTORS, AND THE DIRECTORS WILL CONVEY THEM TO US.

COMING.

WE'LL START RE-HEARSING.

YOU'VE MEMORIZED THE SCRIPT ALREADY, RIGHT?

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT...

...I'D BE PLAYING A STALKER WHO KILLED AI.

HOW IRONIC.

MY ROLE IS A STALKER, WHO STALKS THE HEROINE.

AND...
ACTION!

PLIP

LET'S TAKE A BREAK HERE.

IT'S LEAKING A LITTLE OVER HERE,

SO WE NEED TO SPEED UP THE DOLLY FOR THIS SCENE.

YOU CAN ACT, AFTER ALL.

WHY WOULD YOU WORK BEHIND THE SCENES?

ANYONE COULD DO THIS MUCH IF THEY JUST PRACTICED.

I MAY NOT BE BAD ENOUGH TO BE ON EVERY-BODY'S WAY,

BUT I DON'T HAVE THE CHARM, EITHER.

...JUST FELT DIFFERENT BECAUSE I WAS AN ADULT TRAPPED IN A KID'S BODY.

...THAT KANA ARIMA SAW THAT DAY...

MY PERFOR-MANCE...

I'M JUST LIKE ANY OTHER ACTOR.

NOW THAT MY BODY HAS CAUGHT UP WITH MY MENTAL AGE,

...BUT THAT'S ENOUGH.

I MEAN, I'D BE LYING IF I SAID THAT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT AT ALL...

NO.

IF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOME GREAT ACTING, I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.

JUDGING FROM YOUR ACTING...

...I CAN TELL THAT YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD FOR IT...

...AND I LIKE IT.

YOUR TECHNIQUES ARE FINE, GENTLE, AND THOROUGH.

IT'S LIKE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOURSELF AND BECOME PART OF THE STORY.

ORDINARY PEOPLE...

...MAY NOT UNDER-STAND IT.

IT ONLY MATTERS TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ACTING FOR A LONG TIME LIKE US.

YOU DON'T NEED TO FUSS ABOUT ME.

YES, I DO. I'M THE LEADER OF THIS TROUPE, AFTER ALL!

IT'S BEEN ABOUT *A DECADE* ...

...SINCE I WAS ABLE TO SECURE THE LEAD ROLE. IT'S A *BIG JOB* FOR ME!

I HAVE TO GIVE MY ALL!

YOU AIN'T KIDDING.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN ANYTHING LATELY, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'RE STILL AN ACTOR.

STAB

Ugh!

Arrow: I haven't seen you in anything lately

MY "DARK AGES" LASTED A LONG TIME.

WELL, YEAH.

...DESPITE NOT KNOWING WHY I WAS TRYING SO HARD.

...AND ONLINE, THEY TREATED ME LIKE I WAS DEAD ALREADY.

DWI

Current appearance of the beautiful actress, LOL

1 Anonymous
What is she doing now?

2 Anonymous
Her training is a failure.

Anonymous
She was cute once

I COULDN'T GET A JOB AT ALL...

BUT I'VE CONTINUED TO PRAC-TICE...

I THOUGHT OF QUITTING AGAIN AND AGAIN.

IT'S BEEN TOUGH,

BUT I'M GLAD I KEPT GOING!

HOWEVER,

SOMEONE HAS FINALLY ACKNOWL-EDGED MY SKILLS!

JUST KNOWING THAT YOU'VE CONTINUED ON THIS PATH...

...HAS MADE ME VERY HAPPY.

THAT'S WHY.

EVEN THOUGH YOUR ACTING DOESN'T KNOCK EVERY-ONE'S SOCKS OFF,

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WAS ALSO STRUG-GLING...

...IN THIS PITCH DARK WORLD.

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME.

喫煙所

Sign: Smoking Area

HAS THE FILMING NOT RESUMED YET?

MELT HAS A MAGAZINE PHOTO-SHOOT AFTER THIS.

WE'LL RESUME SOON.

I'D NEED THREE CIGARETTE BUTTS FOR DNA TESTING.

MARLBORO MENTHOL.

ARIMA-SAN IS CALMING THE OTHER CAST DOWN FOR US.

KANA-CHAN, EH?

IT'S GOOD THAT SHE'S USEFUL.

SHE FAWNS ON EVERYONE.

WE CAN JUST PUSH HER AROUND.

THE NAME "KANA ARIMA" HAS BECOME KNOWN TO THE WORLD,

BUT SINCE SHE'S QUIT HER AGENCY AND BECOME A FREELANCER ALREADY,

WE CAN USE HER NAME VALUE TO PROMOTE OUR PROJECT FOR CHEAP.

HER CONCERN FOR ACTING IS A PAIN IN THE NECK, THOUGH.

THIS DRAMA IS NOTHING BUT A MATERIAL TO PROMOTE ITS ACTORS.

WHO THE HELL CARES ABOUT HER ACTING ABILITY?

AND YET, SHE REFUSED TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

...

SOMEONE HAS FINALLY ACKNOWL-EDGED MY SKILLS!

HOWEVER,

NO, HE HASN'T.

IT'S NOT EASY TO FIND SOME-ONE WHO'LL PRAISE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE.

THAT'S THE WORLD FOR YOU, KANA ARIMA.

BUT—

WE'LL RESUME THE FILMING NOW.

MY WORK HERE IS DONE.

I'VE GOT WHAT I WANTED.

BEFORE I HEAD HOME, LET ME SHOW THEM WHAT I CAN DO WHILE I'M AT IT.

【推しの子】

AKA AKASAKA × MENGO YOKOYARI

THE SOUND OF THE CLAPPER-BOARD IS ECHOING ALL OVER THE ROOM.

SCENE

CHAPTER 17
STAGE

THE CAMERAS ARE STARTING TO TURN.

I CAN FEEL THE THICK AIR FILLING THE SPACE.

IT'S LIKE A YEAR'S WORTH OF TIME HAS— BEEN SQUEEZED INTO THIS VERY MOMENT.

IT FEELS SO HEAVY.

THAT LONG PERIOD OF TIME INQUIRING WHAT LIFE IS.

Translated by Felicia Sumali
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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THEY CALLED ME A GENIUS WHEN I WAS LITTLE,

AND EVERYONE FAWNED OVER ME.

MY NAME IS KANA ARIMA.

...THEY REFER TO ME AS AN ACTRESS PAST HER PRIME ON THE INTERNET.

Under Girls

アンダーガールズ

©ABC GAMES

Legendary Lilia

伝説のリリア

Before

After

BUT NOW...

[Sad News] Former Genius Child Actor, Kana Arima-san

【悲報】元・天才子役有馬かなさん

1: Anonymous

1:名無しの子

I'M SO DESPERATE THAT I WOULD EVEN CLUTCH AT STRAWS.

Straws?

BUT I MANAGED TO STAY IN THIS INDUSTRY AND NOW, I'VE FINALLY GOT A CHANCE TO PLAY THE LEAD ROLE.

I WANT TO MAKE THIS A GOOD SHOW NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

MY CAREER WAS PRETTY MUCH-OVER WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL,

THIS WHOLE PRODUCTION IS CRAPPY.

YES, I KNOW.

THE ACTORS HAVE NO BASICS IN ACTING.

THEY EVEN LABELED THE SHOW AS A FLOP.

MOST OF THE VIEWERS WERE DISAPPOINTED.

THEY HAVE RELEASED UP TO EPISODE FOUR.

Screen: Drama > I'll Go with Sweet Today
I'll Go with Sweet Today
Drama News and Information
Story
Cast and Crew
Correlation Chart
Original Work
See More

BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

...WHERE THE PRO-TAGONIST CONFRONTS THE STALK-ER.

THIS IS THE MOST POPULAR SCENE IN THE MANGA...

Book: I'll Go with Sweet Today

A GIRL WHO DOESN'T KNOW LOVE IS PROTECTED BY SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND SHEDS TEARS.

THEF
ALWAYS
BE LIGHT.

EVEN SO...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I READ IT, I STILL LOVE IT.

THIS PART OF THE MANGA ALWAYS GETS ME.

IF I COULD SYNCHRO-NIZE WITH MY FELLOW ACTORS HERE, PLAY ALONG WITH THEM,

AND DELIVER THE BEST PERFOR-MANCE EVER,

I'M SURE WE CAN STILL—

...

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO THINK THAT WAY!

ARE YOU STUPID OR WHAT?

IF I COULD JUST KEEP UP WITH THEM...

I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE!

I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THAT!

IT'S HOPE-LESS!!

ISN'T THIS SCENE SUPPOSED TO BE...

...MORE TENSE, SCARY, AND EERIE?!

HOW CAN THE DIRECTOR BE OKAY WITH THIS KIND OF PERFOR-MANCE?

THIS SCENE SHOULD BE MORE...!

DO THEY REALLY NOT CARE ABOUT ACTING AT ALL?!

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

NO, HMM...

SHOULD WE STOP HERE?

THE MICRO-PHONE IS PICKING UP HIS FOOT-STEPS DUE TO THE RAIN.

I CAN FEEL IT.

WE'LL KEEP GOING.

HUH?

WE'RE OF THE SAME KIND.

SHE CAN NEVER BE COMPATIBLE WITH A PLAYBOY LIKE YOU!

THIS GIRL ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON YOU THINK SHE IS...

...THIS FEELS MORE EMOTIONAL.

DARKNESS SUITS US BETTER.

COMPARED TO THE REHEARSAL...

I JUST THOUGHT THAT HE WASN'T VERY GOOD AT IT, BUT...

WE'LL BECOME STALE IN THE SUN.

I DON'T HAVE TALENT LIKE AI.

I'LL BE LIKE AI...

YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM US...

...EVEN IF I HAVE TO USE ALL OF THEM.

PROPS.

CAMERAS.

LIGHTING.

ACTORS.

I DON'T HAVE AN AURA THAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE,

AND I'M NOT GOOD AT ACTING.

THEREFORE, I'LL USE EVERYTHING I CAN.

YOU'RE PRETTY UGLY NOW THAT I'VE SEEN YOU UP CLOSE.

...

...HUH?

DO YOU ONLY LOOK GOOD WHEN SOMEONE EDITS YOUR PICTURES?

GRAB

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

!

OH.

ARE YOU DEAF?!

I SAID, SHE'S NOT WORTH PROTECT-ING!

THAT BRAT...

...IS IM-PROVISING HIS LINES AND ROLE.

DON'T STOP HIM.

OH...

THIS IS GOOD.

CAMERA 2, FOLLOW HIM.

KEY LIGHTING, STRON-GER.

THIS GIRL...

...IS MY PRE-CIOUS FRIEND!!

RE-CIOUS FRIEND!!

THIS LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE SCENE IN THE MANGA!

THIS IS A FAMOUS SCENE IN THE MANGA.

STAGING, INTENTION, COMPOSITION, AND TEMPO.

THEY'RE ALL IMPORTANT.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT THINKING ABOUT THE AUTHOR'S FEELINGS.

IF I UNDERSTAND THE MASTERPIECE CORRECTLY,

I'LL GET THE PASSING MARK.

Book: I'll Go with Sweet Today

YOU WANT TO DO IT RIGHT?

SEE?

I'VE MADE THE STAGE FOR YOU..

I'LL PROTECT HER EVEN IF YOU KILL ME!

COME ON. GIVE IT YOUR ALL, KANA ARIMA.

I'LL BE "DARK-NESS"...

JUST GIVE UP AND GET LOST!!

...TO MAKE HER SHINE BRIGHT.

THE HIGH-LIGHT OF THIS SCENE IS THE HEROINE'S TEARS.

WHAT-EVER YOU DO IS FUTILE ...

"LIGHT."

CREEPY.

SCARY.

KNOW YOUR PLACE AND LIVE ACCORDINGLY.

STOP DREAMING ALREADY.

NO ONE NEEDS YOU.

SHE JUST NEEDS TO GIVE HER BEST CRYING PERFORMANCE.

AND NOW, TO FINISH OFF...

YOU HAVE NO FUTURE.

YOUR LIFE IS COMPLETE DARKNESS.

THERE'LL ALWAYS

EVEN SO...

THERE'LL ALWAYS BE LIGHT.

COME TO THINK OF IT, CRYING IS HER SPECIALTY, HUH?

DON'T APOLOGIZE. I DID GET PUNCHED ON PUR-POSE.

WHAT?!

I'M SORRY.

I PUNCHED YOU. I EVEN PUT STRENGTH INTO IT.

WHEN IT COMES TO ACTING, NOTHING BEATS EMOTIONS, AFTER ALL.

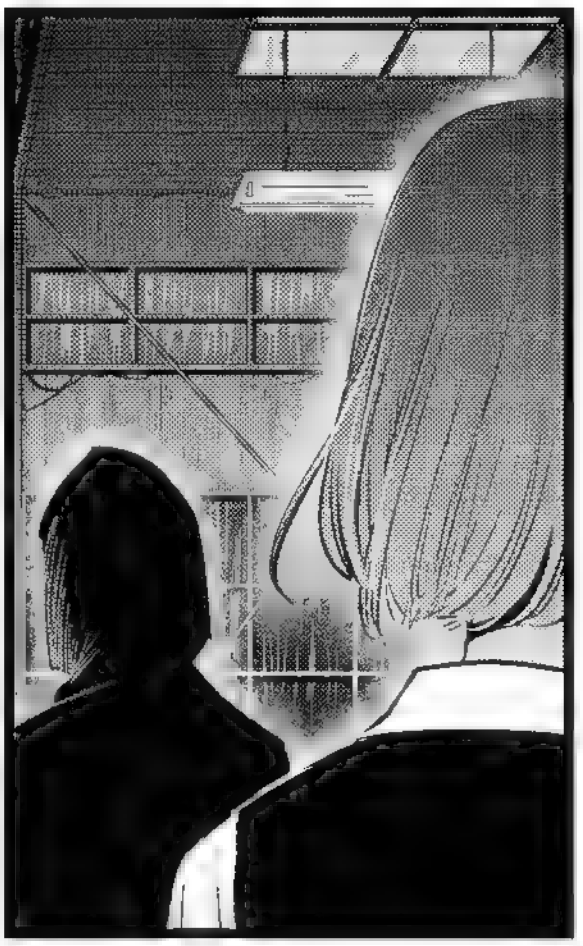
IT WAS A GOOD PERFOR-MANCE.

THANKS TO THAT, ARIMA COULD GIVE HER ALL, TOO.

JEEZ, THIS IS COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT FROM OUR PLANS.

WE HAVE TO DO A LOT OF EDITING NOW.

THAT KID MESSED UP THE WHOLE THING.



I'M SURE KANA-CHAN IS HAPPY, TOO.

BESIDES, I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE A GOOD SCENE.

I MEAN, WE'RE DEALING WITH YOUNG KIDS HERE, SO I'LL TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION.

WHEN YOU HAVE MANY YOUNG ACTORS ON THE SET, YOU HAVE TO RE-WRITE YOUR SCRIPT ON THE SPOT.

IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?

KANA-CHAN?

OH, YES.

KANA-CHAN,

CAN WE DO THE FINAL SCENE NOW?

主人公に
恋に落ちた
乙女の顔

Script: The face of a maiden who fell in .ove with the ma n character

●REC

【推しの子】 AKA AKASAKA × MENGO YOKOYARI

ガチャ KA-CHAK

CHAPTER 18 A LITTLE BIT OF PRAISE

GOOD MORNING, SENSEI.

IF YOU WANT TO SLEEP, PLEASE GO TO YOUR BED.

SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR ISN'T GOOD FOR YOUR WAIST, YOU KNOW.

HMM...

IF I SLEEP ON A BED, I'LL SLEEP LIKE A LOG...

...BUT ***ON THE FLOOR***, I'LL ***GET UP IN ABOUT FOUR HOURS.***

SUCH UNHEALTHY TRIVIA.

DO YOU HAVE WORK FOR US?

HM, PLEASE DO THE BACK-GROUND DOOR OF PAGE TWO AND FINISH THE FIRST AND SECOND PANELS OF PAGE THREE.

THANKS.

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SENSEI, YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO WATCH IT.

OH, YOU WATCH IT AS SOON AS IT STARTS, HUH?

I'M GOING TO WATCH SWEET TODAY.

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO FINISH.

YOU JUST GAVE UP ON IT, HUH?

I DID TWO EPISODES. MORE OR LESS...

I WATCHED THE FIRST EPISODE.

DON'T YOU WATCH IT?

IT WAS SO FRUSTRATING, I COULD BARELY WATCH IT.

YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS TO THIS MANGA,

BUT THEY CLEARLY MADE FUN OF IT.

I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.

THIS SERIES IS AN ADAPTATION OF A MANGA, AND IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. WE CAN'T EVEN HOPE FOR A SEQUEL.

I'M GRATEFUL ENOUGH FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.

HA HA HA.

I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING.

...SAID THAT I SHOULDN'T GET MY HOPES UP.

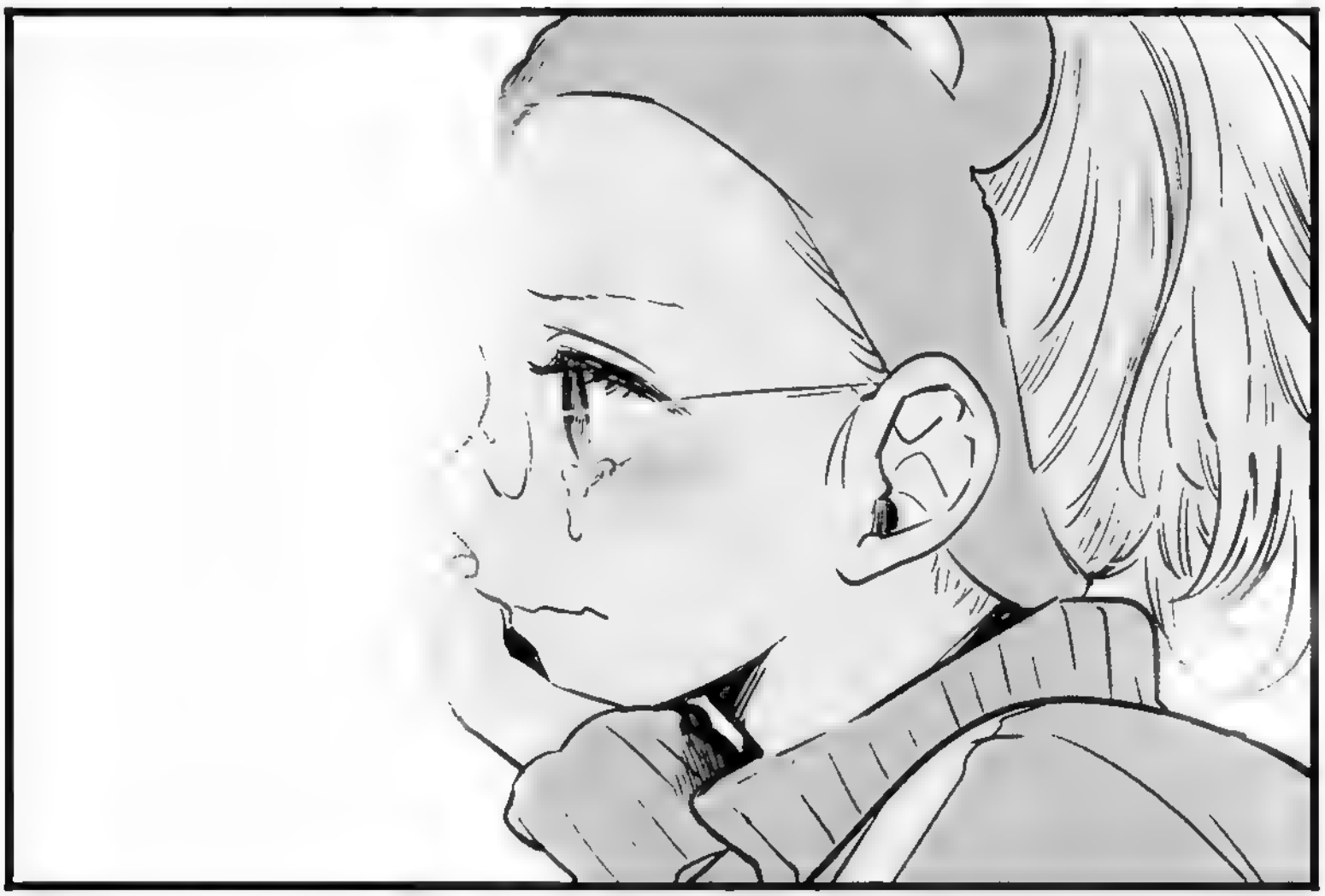
EVERYONE WHO'S HAD THEIR MANGA ADAPTED INTO SOMETHING...

...FOR YOU.

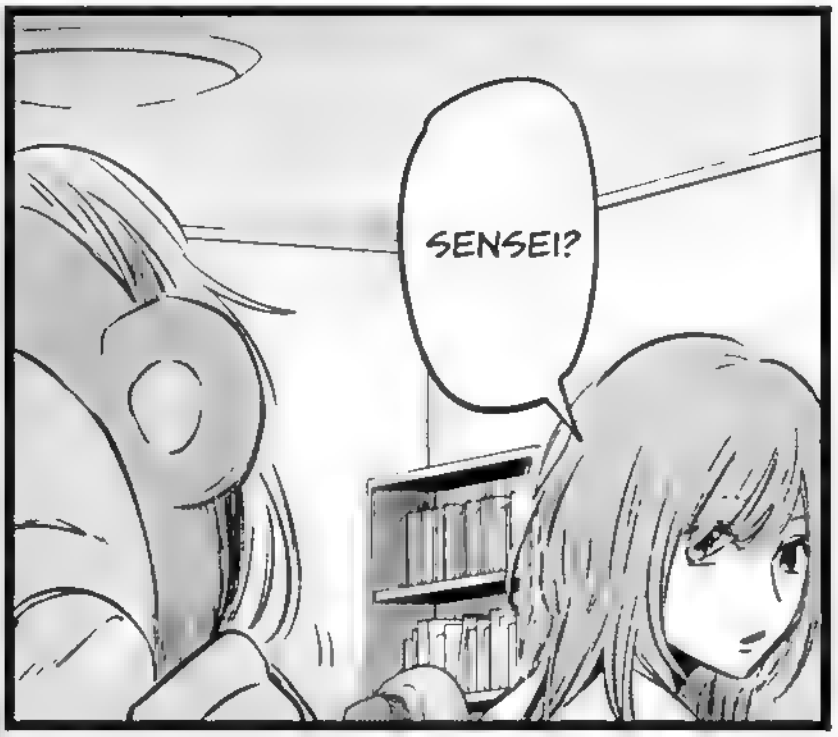
THAT'S ADAPTATIONS...

BUT WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THEIR FACES WOULD TURN SOUR.

AT FIRST, THEY WERE FULL OF HOPE. THEY'D IMAGINE THIS AND THAT WITH A BIG SMILE ON THEIR FACE.



...I SAID YES TO THIS LIVE-ACTION ADAPTATION.
I'M GLAD...


SENSEI?

GUYS, WATCH SWEET TODAY NOW!

YOU CAN JUST SKIP AHEAD TO THE FINAL EPISODE!

Sweet 2h
The final episode was great, wasn't it?

Kana Arima's performance is nuts! As one would expect from the child actor who had taken the world by storm. I shouldn't have looked down o

Seriously, I cried my eyes out.

ONLY THE HARD-CORE FANS OF THE MANGA...

...AND FANS OF THE ACTORS CONTINUED TO WATCH THE SERIES TILL THE END.

MOST OF THE VIEWERS HAVE STOPPED WATCHING.

last episode was ab
g out the charm of th
inal manga. Why coul
do this from the begi

The story continues in the manga. I highly recommend it

30m

Is the original manga really this good? The final episode was great. I should buy the ma

18. Entertainment
Trending
#SweetToday
876 Tweets

19. J-POP Trending
Rihi
851 Tweets

...MIGHT NOT HAVE GONE VIRAL...

THE LAST EPISODE OF SWEET TODAY...

That scene woke me up! They might have what it takes to be actors, after all!

5 Sweet Anonymous
Did they give bad performance on purpose before? The difference was very striking, it got me so emo-

...BY CERTAIN SMALLER GROUPS.

The final episode alone is a masterpiece!!

...BUT IT WAS STILL PRAISED AND WELCOMED...

It's too late (; ω ;)

貸切
ドラマ「今日は甘口で」
打ち上げパーティー

Sign: Reserved
I'll Go with Sweet Today
Closing Party

LOOK AT THIS CROWD.

SO MANY PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN THIS PRODUCTION, HUH?

THAT'S RIGHT.

THEIR JOBS...

...ARE RIDING ON OUR PERFORMANCES.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO GIVE OUR ALL...

...AND AVOID SCANDALS.

...

SPEAKING OF,

DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

NOPE. NO SCANDAL OR CRAP FOR ME, SO DON'T WORRY.

I SEE.

HMM...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

OH!

SENSEI ...

I THINK THIS PROJECT WAS GREATLY HELPED BY YOUR ACTING...

...AND FOR THAT, I THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

HA HA HA.

I WISH IT'D HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT SOONER, THOUGH.

ESPECIALLY THE FINAL EPISODE.

I WONDER IF WE'VE ACHIEVED THAT.

BUT OUR GOAL FOR THIS PROJECT WAS TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO TALENTS LIKE YOU.

WE'VE BARELY MADE ANY PROFIT,

HELLO, THERE. THE FINAL EPISODE WAS QUITE POPULAR, YOU KNOW.

GENETRACK BIOL

DNA

親子関係 否定

DNA 0% Parent-Child relationship is negative

father of the child. The possibility is 0%.

personal and should not be shared. In addition, we also ask you to refrain from using this test for anything that

TURNS OUT, WE WEREN'T RELATED AT ALL...

...AND I FELT RELIEVED SOME-HOW.

THE RESULT OF THIS PRO-DUCER'S CIGARETTE BUTT ANAL-YSIS.

YOU'RE WORKING FOR STRAW-BERRY PRO-DUCTIONS, RIGHT?

BUT—

YOU THINK?

!

YOU LOOK A BIT LIKE AI-KUN.

YEAH, I'VE SEEN HER FACE UP CLOSE BEFORE...

...SO I KNOW.

UP...

...CLOSE?

WHAT WAS YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH AI?

WELL, SHE WORKED AS A MODEL FOR FASHION MAGAZINES, AND I WAS HER AGENT.

FROM THEN ON, I DIDN'T JUST GIVE HER JOBS. I ALSO LOOKED AFTER HER OTHER NEEDS...

...LIKE INTRODUC-ING HER TO SOME GOOD BUSINESS PARTNERS.

I ALSO...

...RECOMMENDED SOME GOOD PLACES TO HER...

...SO SHE COULD MEET A GUY BEHIND HER AGENCY'S BACK.

!

WHO...

...WAS THIS GUY SHE MET WITH EXACTLY?

HM?

BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU AI-KUN'S FAN?

YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GOSSIP ABOUT HER EVEN AFTER SHE DIED?

...PRETTY MUCH.

WELL, I DON'T MIND SHARING.

ON ONE CONDITION.

I SEE.

YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL FACE THAT REMINDS ME OF AI'S.

IF WE USE IT WELL, YOU MAY BECOME POPULAR.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO APPEAR IN A REALITY DATING SHOW?

Sign: Yoto High Entrance Ceremony

陽東高校入学

TMP

Sign: Yoto High,Entrance Ceremony

陽東高校入学

CONGRATS ON YOUR ADMISSION, AQUA.

RUBY.

IF YOU FAIL YOUR EXAMS OR HAVE POOR ATTENDANCE, YOU'LL REPEAT A YEAR.

THE CURRICULUM IS PRETTY SIMILAR, TOO.

APART FROM HAVING FLEXIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE,

YOTO HIGH ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR HIGH SCHOOLS.

BUT OF COURSE, THERE'S ONE BIG DIFFERENCE.

THE GUY WALKING OVER THERE IS AN ACTOR.

THOSE TWO GIRLS ARE MEMBERS OF THE LARGEST IDOL GROUP.

THAT GIRL WITH BIG BOOBS OVER THERE IS A PIN-UP GIRL.

THOSE TWO SITTING ON THE BENCH ARE A KABUKI ACTOR AND AN ACTRESS.

FASHION MODEL AND SINGER.

THEY'RE A VOICE ACTOR AND A STREAM ER.

EVERYONE HERE IS A CELEBRITY.

SO, MY JUNIORS...

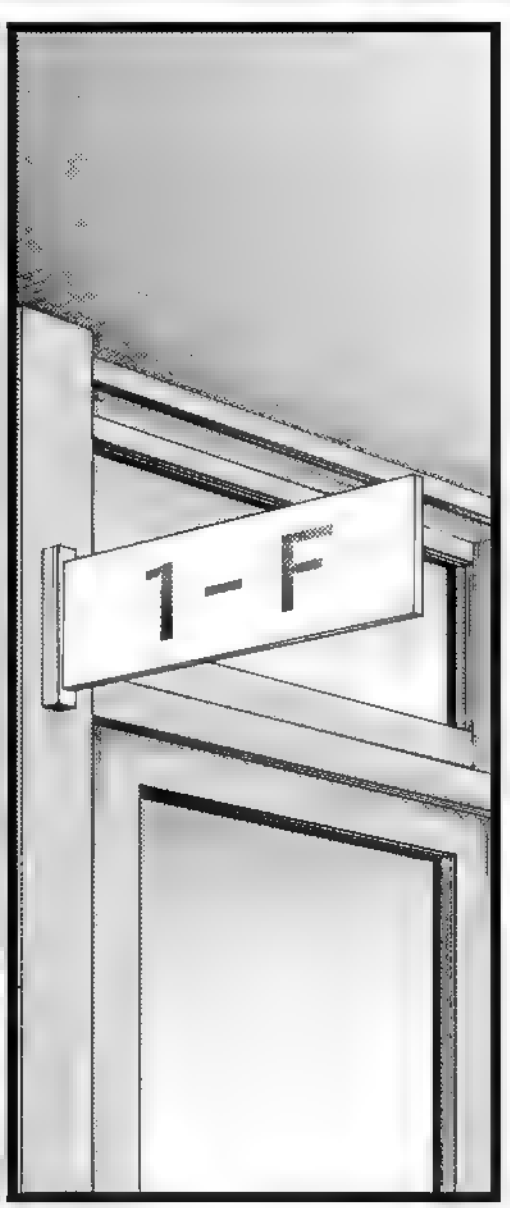
IN JAPAN, THIS SCHOOL HAS THE BIG- GEST NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE SPOT- LIGHT.

WELCOME TO SHOW BUSINESS.

【推しの子】

CHAPTER 19

Ruby Hoshino
First day of becoming a freshman
at Yoto High Performing Arts
Department



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CHAPTER 19 PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

SEATING CHART

GOOD-LOOKING HUNKS ON THE LEFT!

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS ON THE RIGHT!

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT FROM MY LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL!

DESPITE ITS NAME, I THOUGHT THE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM WASN'T A BIG DEAL, AFTER ALL.

BUT I WAS WRONG.

...I HAVE MAMA'S GENES, SO WHEN IT COMES TO LOOKS, I'M BY NO MEANS INFERIOR TO THEM, RIGHT?

BUT...

I SHOULDN'T BE OVER-WHELMED!

SHE'S AMAZING!

WHOA!

STARE

STARE

I WAS STUNNED BY YOUR BEAUTY.

THE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM IS AMAZING, ALL RIGHT.

GASP

WHOOPS, I'M SORRY FOR STARING...

ARE YOU A MODEL?

YEAH... MORE OR LESS.

NO, NO. YOU'RE AMAZING, TOO.

MY NAME IS MINAMI KOTOBUKI.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

MINAMI KOTO-BUKI...?

OH! YOU'RE A PIN-UP GIRL!

IT'S KINDA RUDE FOR YOU TO GOOGLE SOMETHING ABOUT ME BEFORE MY EYES, DON'T YOU THINK?

ARE YOU FROM OSAKA?
DID YOU COME TO TOKYO TO PURSUE YOUR CAREER?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD A REAL-DEAL KANSAI ACCENT!
STOP IT!
You're a G-cup...?
EEK! THESE ARE LEWD!
THAT'S A FAKE ACCENT ?!
...I'M GETTING IN THE MOOD.
I JUST SPEAK LIKE THIS BE-CAUSE...
NO, I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN KANAGAWA.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DID YOU MAKE ANY?
...BUT AT LEAST YOU MADE A FRIEND. I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
...
I DON'T GET IT...
THAT'S HOW MINAMI AND I BECAME FRIENDS.

NOT REALLY. I DIDN'T COME TO THIS SCHOOL TO MAKE FRIENDS, ANYWAY...

OH, NO!

YOU DIDN'T MAKE ANY...!

I'M SORRY I ASKED. IT MUST'VE BEEN PAINFUL, HUH?

I WON'T TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR CLASS ANYMORE.

IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO TALK TO, OKAY?!

MEN DON'T BECOME FRIENDS WITH OTHER MEN IN A JIFFY, YOU KNOW?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, MY PROGRAM IS DIFFERENT FROM YOURS. MINE IS INTEGRATED.

IT'LL DEFINITELY TAKE TIME TO BUILD AND DEEPEN A FRIENDSHIP.

BESIDES, I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE LONERS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

YOU'VE BECOME SO TALKATIVE ALL OF A SUDDEN.

DON'T JUST SHARE YOUR FRIEND LIKE THAT.

HA HA HA. SURE.

MINAMI-CHAN, PLEASE BE AQUA'S FRIEND, TOO.

I'M GETTING NERVOUS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

THAT'S RIGHT. EVERYONE AROUND US IS A PRO.

IT'S A SPECIAL ENVIRON-MENT, AND THE SURROUND-INGS ARE DIFFERENT, RIGHT?

ANYWAY, WHY DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF?

I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE.

RUBY-CHAN...

THIS PLACE IS *NEITHER A TRAINING CENTER NOR A FILM SET.* IT'S A *REGULAR SCHOOL.*

JUST BE YOURSELF.

DON'T BE.

HMM.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE THAT NERVOUS...

BUT I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH MOST OF THEM.

WELL, I SAW A LOT OF GOOD-LOOKING PEOPLE AT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY,

...AMAZING PERSON.

THERE'S ONE...

...SO I COULDN'T ATTEND THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

SLIDE

EXCUSE ME.

I HAD TO GO LIVE THIS MORNING TO ADVERTISE A PROGRAM...

LET'S START OUR FIRST CLASS—

CHATTER
IT'S FRILL SHI-RANUI...
CHATTER

FRILL SHI-RANUI.

WE SAW FRILL SHIRANUI IN THE FLESH!!

WELL, I KNOW HER...

HER MONDAY NIGHT DRAMA IS A BIG HIT!

SHE CAN SING, DANCE, AND ACT! SHE'S MULTITAL-ENTED!

MOST PEOPLE WILL THINK OF HER WHEN THEY HEAR THE WORD "BEAUTIFUL GIRL"!!

...BUT YOU SURE ARE PASSION-ATE ABOUT HER, HUH?

SHE'S MY CURRENT OBSES-SION!!

I'M NOT INTERESTED.

AI IS MY ONLY IDOL. ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL.

WELL, I LOVE HER, TOO.

BUT THIS AND THAT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!

HMM.

WHAT "HMM"?!

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FRILL SHIRANUI HERE!

OH...!

LOOK!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!

I KNOW, BUT—

SST

SIGH

WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE A FAN?

SHE'S STILL CUTE EVEN FROM A DISTANCE.

SHE'S YOUR CLASS-MATE, RIGHT?

GOOD AFTER-NOON, SHIRANUI-SAN.

!

HEY!

PLEASE BE FRIENDS WITH HER.

MY SISTER IS YOUR CLASSMATE.

I KNOW YOU.

YOU APPEARED IN *SWEET TODAY*, RIGHT?

...

YOU SAW IT? THAT'S IMPRES-SIVE.

I MEAN, THAT DRAMA WASN'T HOT OR ANYTHING...

THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WERE TALKING ABOUT IT,

SO I WATCHED IT.

IT WAS GOOD.

ARE YOU MINAMI-SAN?

THAT'S ME!

...

THANKS.

OH.

I'VE SEEN YOU ON THE COVER OF MIDDLE JUMP BEFORE.

FRILL SHIRANUI KNOWS THEM...

AMAZING...

UM...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

AS OF NOW, I'M NOT REALLY DOING ANY-THING...

WHAT DO YOU DO?

I'M SORRY.

UM...

I...

WELL...

GOOD LUCK?

I SEE.

HURRY UP AND MAKE ME AN IDOL ALREADY ...!!

MIYAE-MOOON!

THERE ARE PROCEDURES TO MAKE A PROPER GROUP, YOU KNOW? WE NEED TO SCOUT THEM AND HIRE THEM PROPERLY.

...BUT WE CAN'T JUST DO AUDI-TIONS.

WE'RE MAKING AN IDOL GROUP...

DON'T RUSH.

WHAT? SO SHE'S AN ORDINARY GIRL?

SHE'S NOT DOING ANYTHING SPECIAL.

BUT AT THIS RATE...!

THEY'RE GOING TO BULLY ME!

えぇぇぇ SHRIEK

SHE MUST BE A POSER. HOW ANNOYING.

THERE'S AN ORDINARY GIRL AMONG US.

WE CAN'T HIRE HER! I'M SURE SHE HAS AN AGENT ALREADY!

THERE'S THIS GIRL NAMED MINAMI KOTOBUKI FROM THE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM. SHE'S CUTE AND HER BOOBS ARE BIG, TOO...

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT WITH ANOTHER AGENCY.

I'D RATHER HIRE FREELANCERS.

THOSE WHO ARE AMBITIOUS WOULD MOSTLY AUDITION FOR BIG COMPANIES.

WELL, FINDING CUTE GIRLS ISN'T AN EASY TASK.

FREE-LANCER, EH?

THERE'S ONE.

NOT ONLY THAT.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A JOB NOW DESPITE BEING FAMOUS.

...

PLUS, SHE'S CUTE.

MAMA!
MAMA!
OH RUBY, YOU'RE SUCH A MOMMY'S GIRL...
WILL IT BE OKAY FOR YOU TO GO TO KINDERGARTEN LIKE THIS?
MAMA SMELLS NICE♥
WOAH... REALLY?
YAY!
WHAT SHAMPOO DO YOU USE?
EH...?
THE SAME AS YOURS...
SOMETIMES, MY CHILD KINDA ACTS LIKE ONE OF THOSE OTAKU!

AQUA, RUBY!
LET'S TAKE A BATH♥
BOTANIST
I'VE BEEN WAIT-ING!!
AHAHA... YOU REALLY LIKE BATHS, DON'T YOU, RUBY.
Squeeze...
AQUA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES SHUT THE WHOLE TIME!
THAT'S WHAT THIS HAT'S FOR!
I WONDER... ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE SHAM-POO?
SCARED

【推しの子】

2巻

赤坂アカ
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横槍メンゴ
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English Chapters by Manga Plus 2022
Ripped & Compiled by Oak
Omake translated by Ai's fanclub
発行所　集英社
http://www.shueisha.co.jp

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YJ ヤングジャンプ YJC

【推しの子】（2）

赤坂アカ × 横槍メンゴ

集英社

COVER DESIGN ★ MINU MAKIBUCHI(POCKET)

背表紙・カバー折り返し

※表記はコミックス発売当時のものになります。

本体・表紙」

※表記はコミックス発売当時のものになります。

本体・裏表紙」

※表記はコミックス発売当時のものになります。

【推しの子】
AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI

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MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

CHAPTER 20
JOINING

WELL-MAINTAINED GLOSSY HAIR.

INNOCENT BABY FACE.

NATURAL AIRHEAD PERSONALITY.

WELL, I CAN'T DENY IT.

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING IDOLS FOR MANY YEARS,

SO I KNOW THAT GIRLS LIKE HER ARE *POPULAR AMONG NERDS.*

YOUR OPINIONS AND ANALYSIS ARE QUITE UNPLEASANT, HUH?

IF SHE CAN MAKE YOU POPULAR, IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU AT LEAST TRY TO ASK HER?

WELL, YOU'VE GOT A POINT, BUT...

Last synopsis

We'd like Kana Arima to join our idol group.

YOU KNOW THAT...

...MY *RELATIONSHIP* WITH LOLI-SENPAI IS QUITE *UNUSUAL*, DON'T YOU?

IS IT REALLY?

DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S DISGUSTED WITH ME?!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS REFER TO HER AS SOMEONE WHO CAN *LIE ON A YACHT.*

SULK

ANYWAY, I'LL TEXT HER. JUST TRY TO TALK WITH HER.

IF YOU STILL CAN'T GET ALONG WITH HER THEN, YOU CAN ALWAYS TURN HER DOWN.

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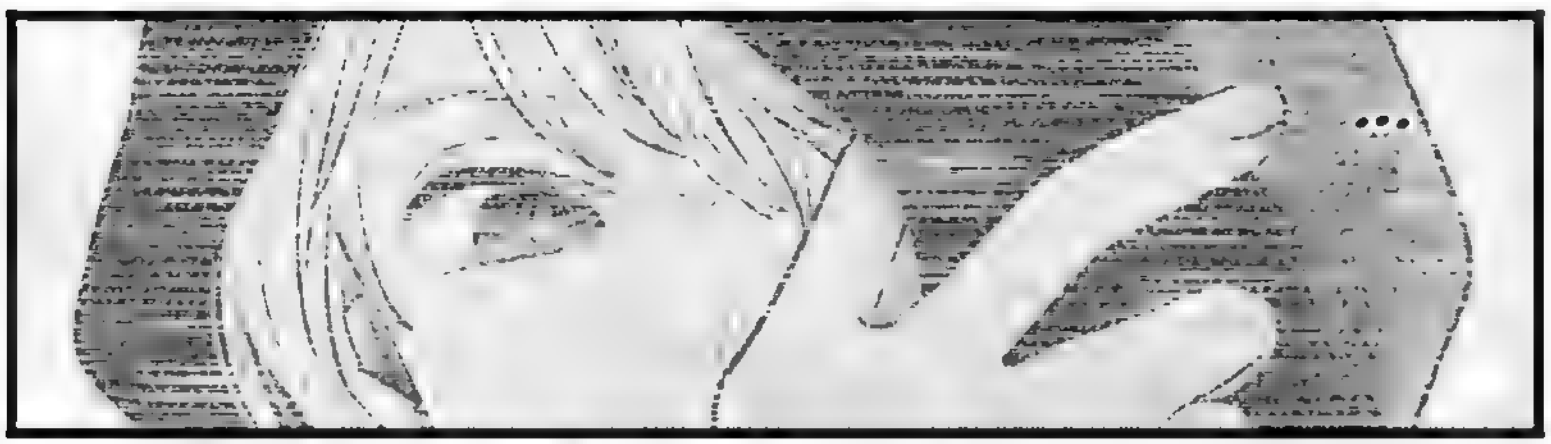
TEE! HEE

Phone: After watching the series again, I can tell that Kana Arima's performance is above the rest.

Phone: Tarako
The stalker guy… His role is disgusting, but he's pretty handsome. I have mixed feelings about him.
Pikari



...!

Aqua

We need to talk.
It's important.
Can we meet after school?

WHAT IS IT, I WONDER...?

SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

I'M STUMPED...

WHAAAT?

IS HE GOING TO...?

HMMM...

THANK YOU FOR WAIT-ING...

DAMN RIGHT. WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

HUH?

I SHOULD'VE MADE YOU WAIT FOR-EVER...

SIGH... I GOT WORKED UP FOR NOTHING.

RUBY IS THE ONE WHO WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU.

WHY IS YOUR SISTER HERE, TOO?

DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT?

HOW CRUDE...

SO, WHAT IS IT?

I'M BUSY, YOU KNOW? I'LL GIVE YOU *20 SECONDS TO WRAP THINGS UP.*

WHAT PRIDE YOU'VE GOT THERE.

IT'S SO ANNOY-ING!

ISN'T IT THE SAME AS ME ADMIT-TING THAT *SHE'S CUTE ENOUGH TO BE ONE?!*

IF I ASK HER TO BE AN IDOL HERE,

AQUA!

YEAH,
YOU'RE RIGHT.

...

CAN YOU AFFORD TO BE STUBBORN?

DON'T YOU WANT TO BE AN IDOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

KANA ARIMA-SAN,

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN IDOL WITH ME?

I HEARD THAT YOU WERE A FREELANCER, SO...

LONG STORY SHORT, WE'D LIKE TO SCOUT YOU.

STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS IS PLANNING TO MAKE AN IDOL GROUP.

SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR MEM-BERS.

IDOL?

WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

...

LET ME THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SEC.

...

ARE YOU SERI-OUS?

IT'S AS SERIOUS AS IT IS IMPORT-ANT.

THE ANSWER IS OBVI-OUSLY NO.

NO...

IF I BECOME AN IDOL,

NOT ONLY WILL I LOSE JOBS AS A YOUNG ACTOR,

BUT I'LL ALSO HAVE TO DEAL WITH TOUGH IDOL JOBS.

BUT—

ON TOP OF THAT, THE WHOLE THING IS SELF-PRODUCED. IT'S JUST TOO RISKY.

WHAT'S WORSE, IF I CAN'T GET THIS IDOL THING TO WORK OUT, I'LL LOSE BOTH OF THEM.

I FEEL SOMETHING REMINISCENT OF THE GENIUS IDOL "AI" FROM HER.

RUBY HOSHINO...

AS A PERFORMER,

I CAN FEEL THAT THIS GIRL HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED.

I ONLY WORKED WITH AI ONCE,

BUT HER POPULARITY WAS DEFINITELY NOT FAKE. SHE WAS THE REAL DEAL.

...AND THEY HAVE NO TRACK RECORD IN NEW PROJECTS, EITHER.

HOWEVER, STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS IS NOT A BIG COMPANY...

Sign. Strawberry Productions Inc
Saito

BUT ABOVE ALL,

I'M JUST NOT CUTE ENOUGH TO BE AN IDOL...

AT ANY RATE, I'M NOT AN IDIOT WHO'LL ACTUALLY TAKE THIS RECKLESS BET.

KANA ARIMA...

I'M SORRY, BUT—

PLEASE BE AN IDOL WITH MY SISTER.

BUT...

I'M NOT THAT CUTE...

YOU *ARE* CUTE.

!

I WON'T ASK YOU TO BE AN IDOL ON A WHIM,

BUT YOU'RE DEFINITELY CUTER THAN MOST IDOLS.

I'D LIKE TO ENTRUST MY PRECIOUS SISTER TO YOU.

WHAT?! BUT...

I'M ASKING YOU BECAUSE I HAVE FAITH IN YOU.

JEEZ!

I SAID, I WON'T DO IT!

I'M BEG-GING YOU.

I-I CAN'T!

PLEASE...

...BE AN IDOL.

I'LL NEVER BE AN IDOL!

YOU CAN BEG ALL YOU WANT, BUT MY ANSWER IS STILL NO!

that according to the Civil Proceeding Ac
and other related laws and regulations.

The consignor hereby confirms that
he/she fully understands the contents of
this agreement.
The consignor and consignee will each
keep a copy of this agreement.

Kana Arima

Arima

印

152-0001
Meguro City, Tokyo

LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER, SENPAI.

WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?!

MY HEAD SAID NO, BUT...

WELCOME TO STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS.

WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU HERE.

NOTHING SPECIAL.

YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ PEOPLE.

WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU ACTUALLY GOT HER TO JOIN.

KANA ARIMA IS ***EMPATHETIC*** AND ***WEAK AGAINST PRESSURE.***

I THOUGHT IT'D BE EFFECTIVE IF I ***CRIED AND CONVINCED HER*** AT THE SAME TIME, AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD IDEA, AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE QUITE SOMETHING, ALL RIGHT.

IF YOU KEEP DOING THAT, YOU'LL GET INTO TROUBLE EVENTUALLY.

THE STREETS ARE DANGEROUS AT NIGHT, SO BE CAREFUL.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD.

I...

...DIDN'T EVEN LIE.

KANA ARIMA HAS JOINED STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS.

YOU'RE DESPERATE TO CONVINCE YOURSELF, HUH?

EITHER WAY, I DEFINITELY NEED A SHOT IN THE ARM.

IT'S JUST CHANGED INTO AN *IDOL* WHO'S ALSO A *FORMER GENIUS CHILD ACTOR*.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THE TITLE *FORMER GENIUS CHILD ACTOR* MEANS ANYTHING NOW.

THERE MUST BE SOME TRICKS I COULD STEAL FROM HIM.

NOW THAT WE'RE UNDER THE SAME AGENCY, I SHOULD HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH HIM.

BUT WELL,

...

HM?

WHAT'S WITH THAT SOUR LOOK?

HM...

YEAH, I GUESS.

HAS AQUA RECEIVED NEW OFFERS LATELY?

WHAT IS IT?

HERE.

WHAT?!

AQUA IS GOING TO APPEAR IN A DATING SHOW...?!

Screen: The beginning of my love♡ with an idol

Presented by

赤坂アカ × 横槍メンゴ

【推しの子】

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Next Vol.3

2021.02.19 Fri.

発売予定。